UNIVERSITY OF THE OZARKS

VOLUME 36 /// SPRING 2017

TODAY

LEGAL EAGLES

ALUMNI THRIVE IN LAW PROFESSIONS

CONTENTS

UNIVERSITY OF THE OZARKS

2 **A New Frontier**
$10 million Walton gift to provide scholarships

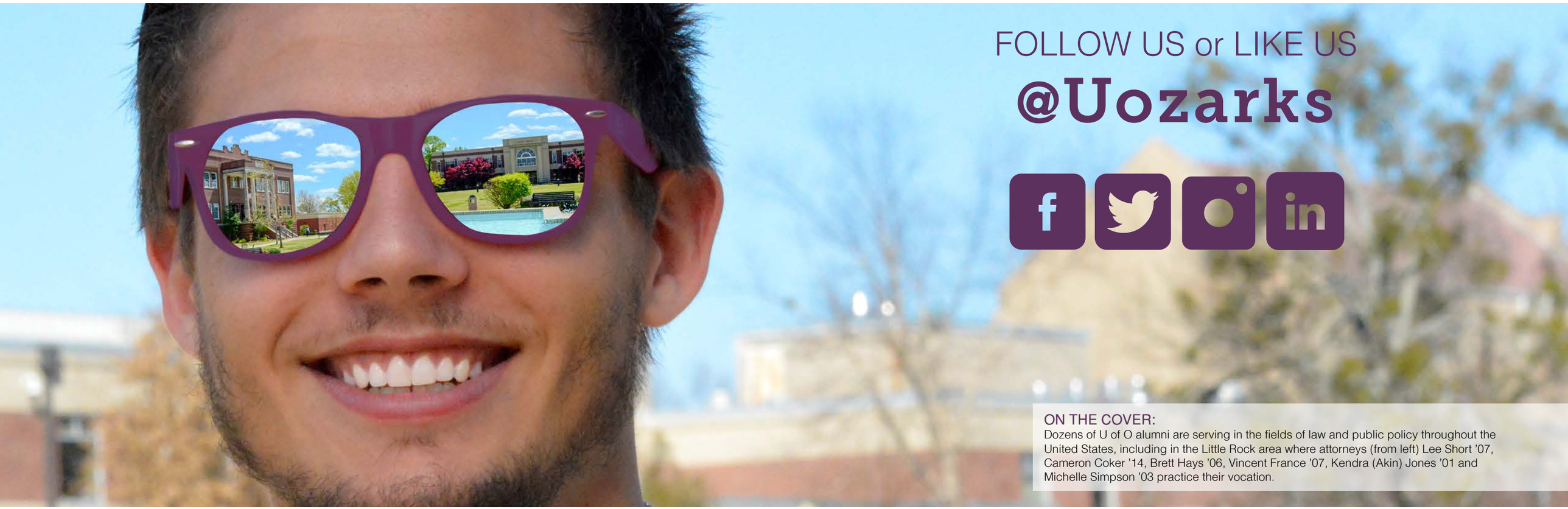
5 **Tennis Center**
University breaks ground on new athletics facility

6 **Test-Optional Policy**
Admission process gives students more options

32 **Why I Give**
Williams' gift to enhance Chapel programming

33 **Teaching in Alaska**
Alumnus finds adventure teaching in Alaskan Bush

40 **Melting Pot**
Wrestling program thrives with geographical diversity



ON THE COVER:
Dozens of U of O alumni are serving in the fields of law and public policy throughout the United States, including in the Little Rock area where attorneys (from left) Lee Short '07, Cameron Coker '14, Brett Hays '06, Vincent France '07, Kendra (Akin) Jones '01 and Michelle Simpson '03 practice their vocation.

TODAY

A BIANNUAL MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF UNIVERSITY OF THE OZARKS

VOLUME 36 / NUMBER 1 /// SPRING 2017

UNIVERSITY MISSION

True to our Christian heritage, we prepare students from diverse religious, cultural, educational and economic backgrounds to live life fully.

UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION

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> At the **HEART** of the plan is the **BELIEF** that the University, building on its **LEGACY,** should be **ACCESSIBLE** regardless of economic means. We see this **GIFT** as wholly consistent with our **MISSION** and long history of **SOCIAL** and **EDUCATIONAL** leadership.
>
> Dr. Judy P. Boreham
> Chair, Board of Trustees

A NEW FRONTIER

$10 MILLION WALTON GIFT TO FUND SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDENTS

The University announced in October a $10 million gift from the Walton Family Foundation establishing an endowed scholarship program to assist promising students from low and middle income families. President Richard L. Dunsworth announced the new Frontier Scholarship Program to the campus community in the University's Munger-Wilson Memorial Chapel.

"There has been much written and discussed about the escalating costs of higher education in our country, and for many families the cost exceeds their reach," said Dunsworth, as he shared information regarding the scholarship program.

Dunsworth told the audience the Frontier Scholarships would boost the private, four-year institution's ongoing efforts to provide a high quality liberal arts education to students who may otherwise struggle to afford it. Initial Frontier Scholarships will be awarded to qualified students entering as freshmen in the fall of 2017. The total number of scholarships that will be awarded is still being determined, according to administrators.

Dr. Judy P. Boreham, chair of the University's Board of Trustees, said that the Frontier Scholarship Program would add tremendous support to the University's strategic plan, "Renewing Our Place," adopted by the board last fall.

"At the heart of the plan is the belief that the University, building on its legacy, should be accessible regardless of economic means," Boreham said. "We see this gift as wholly consistent with our mission and long history of social and educational leadership."

Dr. Dave Daily, moderator of the Faculty Senate and professor of religion, commented, "We are proud of the quality of education we provide to our students, especially at a cost that defies national trends. We've already eliminated hundreds of dollars in fees while not raising the cost of tuition, room and board. With this generous gift, we will be able to extend the reach of an Ozarks education even further."

During the announcement, Dunsworth expressed deep appreciation to the Bentonville-based foundation established by the late Sam and Helen Walton for furthering the University's "pioneering spirit in higher education."

Noting that Ozarks is the oldest institution of higher education in the Arkansas-Oklahoma Territory (founded in 1834), he enumerated many "firsts" that he said demonstrated "the unflagging frontier spirit at the University."

The list included Ozarks' status as the first college in Arkansas to admit women in 1875, the first historically white institution of higher education in Arkansas to admit African-American undergraduates in 1957, the first historically white college in the state to integrate its varsity athletics program, and the first in the nation to establish a program to assist college students with specific learning disabilities.

Helen Walton joined the University's Board of Trustees in 1974, was a former chair of the board, and was named honorary lifetime chair of the board in 1985. Ozarks is one of three host universities for the Walton International Scholars Program, and is the home of the Walton Fine Arts Center and Robson Memorial Library (named in memory of Mrs. Walton's parents).

Other endowed scholarships and professorships have also been established at Ozarks by the Walton family.

The Frontier Scholarship endowment is the latest in a string of major gifts and commitments to the University that includes funding for the complete restoration of the University's Munger-Wilson Memorial Chapel, the $2 million McElree Faculty Enrichment Endowment, a $1 million endowed math professorship, an $800,000 endowment for study abroad scholarships, and funding to construct and support a new competition tennis complex and associated facilities.

Enrollment hits 13-year high

University of the Ozarks' 2016 Fall Semester enrollment was the largest at the University in 13 years.

A total of 686 STUDENTS were enrolled in the fall, the largest number since 731 in 2003. The fall enrollment represented a 5.4 percent increase over last year's total of 651 students.

It marks the fourth consecutive year of growth at the private, four-year university. ENROLLMENT HAS GROWN 17 PERCENT SINCE 2014.

University Provost Dr. Travis Feezell attributed the growth to the fact that Ozarks has not raised tuition, room and fees for four years as well as continued success in student retention efforts.

The freshman retention rate from fall 2015 to fall 2016 was 73.3 percent and the OVERALL RETENTION RATE for all students EXCEEDED 77 PERCENT.

"We have seen tremendous growth in enrollment the previous two years due to both traditional admission of new students and the retention of continuing students," Feezell said. "On both fronts—attracting students and keeping them on track to graduation—we are creating a powerful experience of incredible value."

The new student incoming class of 241 students, which includes first-time freshmen as well as transfer students, is the second-largest since 2008.

"We've not raised tuition for the fourth straight year and this year we eliminated compulsory fees, thus creating an actual reduction of costs for our students and families," Feezell said. "In today's higher education environment, controlling, and in this case reducing costs to families while growing enrollment, is indeed unique."

The University's fall semester enrollment included 55 PERCENT FROM ARKANSAS and 13 PERCENT FROM JOHNSON COUNTY.

The fall enrollment numbers also included 82 INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS representing 16 countries, including Belize, Columbia, The Republic of Congo, Croatia, France, Germany, Myanmar, Norway, Panama and Rwanda.

Get to Know
DR. JONATHAN LEDGER

DR. JONATHAN LEDGER joined the Ozarks faculty as assistant professor of music and choral director in August 2016. Raised in Virginia, Ledger was musically inclined as a youth, even serving as a drum major in his high school marching band. With his sights set on becoming a surgeon, Ledger entered Emory & Henry College as a biology major before an elective class in music conducting helped him discover "his true passion and calling in life." He went on to earn a master's degree in choral conducting at Bowling Green State University in 2008 and for the next three years directed a high school choir in Virginia. In 2011 he began working on a doctor of musical arts degree in choral conducting from the University of Alabama, which he completed in 2015. As the choral conductor at Ozarks, Ledger leads both the Chamber Singers and the smaller Chapel Choir.

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT MUSIC AND CONDUCTING MUSIC?

For me, music is all about people. Music unites people in such a powerful way. I love working toward a common goal with so many talented musicians and then sharing the fruits of our labor with even more people during performances and worship services. I truly believe music is the language of the human soul, and it allows us to express thoughts and feelings in a way that is very unique compared to all other outlets. As far as conducting, I love the feeling of mirroring, shaping, and guiding the sound of a group of singers performing as one entity. Conducting is very similar to dance in terms of the fluidity and energy of the motion and in the way that the gesture is shaped to reflect and interpret the music. There is simply nothing better than getting to stand in front of a great choir and immerse yourself in their sound every day.

IN YOUR OPINION, WHAT IS THE KEY FOR A GREAT CHORAL GROUP?

A great choral ensemble consists of people who love to make music and work toward a common goal with others. Egos and arrogance must be at a minimum, and the singers need to simply love what they do and be willing to work hard, regardless of vocal ability.

HOW DO YOU TRY TO MAKE IT AN ENJOYABLE EXPERIENCE FOR THE STUDENTS?

I always try to be upbeat and encouraging when working with students. We've all had teachers or professors who are demeaning and overly critical, and that type of negative energy just causes most people to shut down. I've always felt that it's important to show students that you care about their educational experience and their development as human beings, so I always approach everything from a positive manner when teaching. That's not to say that I don't push my students in classes or rehearsals; they will attest that we work hard throughout the entire class or rehearsal, but we have a good time while doing it.

WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OF TEACHING AT A SMALLER LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGE?

I love that I can get to know almost everyone—students, faculty, and staff—on a personal level due to our smaller size. To me, that's where I thrive, since I love getting to know different types of people with a wide variety of interests and expertise. As a student at a small, liberal arts college, I appreciated being more than the last four digits of a social security number to all of my professors.

WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR SHORT AND LONG-TERM GOALS FOR THE CHORAL PROGRAM?

Growth! Our short and long-term goals all involve growing the program in one way or another. This year, we are focusing on recruiting from our current student body and on the surrounding regions from which we tend to draw most of our students. I will be reaching out to high school choral directors, travelling to listen to their choirs and meet their students, and hopefully doing some workshops with their choirs so that they can get an idea of what it would be like to sing in a choir here. Hopefully, after several years, we will have more music majors and minors, which will allow us to add more full-time faculty. Then, we can offer new courses and tracks in the major and minor.

TENNIS CENTER PLANNED
NEW FACILITY WILL FEATURE STATE-OF-THE-ART COURTS

Ozarks held a ground-breaking ceremony on Oct. 7 for a new championship caliber on-campus tennis facility.

A large group of U of O students, faculty, staff, alumni and board members attended the ceremony on the north end of campus that marked the start of construction on the outdoor facility. The center will feature eight state-of-the-art lighted courts, championship court spectator seating and a contemporary tennis clubhouse and hosting venue.

The facility was made possible by a gift from Dr. Judy P. Boreham of Fort Smith, Ark., the chair of the University's Board of Trustees and a former provost at the college.

University President Richard L. Dunsworth said of the gift, "Tennis has been a key component of Ozarks' recreational and varsity athletics programming for generations. The opportunity Dr. Boreham has given the University to replace our aging tennis facilities with top-flight courts and amenities is a special gift that will benefit our students and tennis fans from throughout the region for generations to come."

Dr. Boreham, a lifelong tennis player, said she admires the University's student-athletes. "As an NCAA Division III university, Ozarks' athletes aren't receiving athletic scholarships; they truly play for the love of the game," Dr. Boreham said. "It is my hope that our varsity athletes as well as all the students and members of the community will enjoy this facility for many years."

Construction on the facility began in early March and is expected to be completed by October. The courts will feature video streaming capabilities and teaching technology designed to enhance the player, coach, and spectator experience. The first floor of the complex will include locker rooms as well as spectator restrooms and facilities for concessions and storage. The second floor features an open space designed for hosting events and allows full view of the entire complex and competition play.

U of O Athletics Director Jimmy Clark said the center will be one of the top tennis facilities in the region.

"It's a tremendous addition to our athletic program and will provide our athletes a first-class facility in which to practice and to compete," Clark said. "We'll be able to attract and host things such as pro-am events, high school state tournaments, summer professional circuits and youth and adult regional tournaments."

NEW FACULTY and STAFF

The University welcomed several new employees during the Fall Semester, including (seated, from left) Audrey Harner, assistant softball coach; Frances Mills, head cheer/STUNT coach; Samantha Campbell, assistant cheer/STUNT coach; Whitney Lewis, assistant tennis coach; Carrie Callahan, writing specialist with the Jones Learning Center; Jessica Baumgartner, office manager for Business, Education and Communication Division; Faith Franks, office manager for Student Affairs; Lauren Gentry, advisor and skills coach with the Student Success Center; Hap Adkins, college coach for Student Success Center; Christopher Dixon, adjunct music professor; (middle row, from left) Leslie Carter, director of development; Dr. Warren Sconiers, assistant professor of biology; Kelby Robinson, assistant basketball coach; Ruth Walton, director of career services; Aaron Brueckner, head men's soccer coach; Matthew Eubanks, coordinator of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) services for the Jones Learning Center; Dr. Jonathan Ledger, assistant professor of music and choral director; Rebecca Lester, director of major grants; Joey Etheridge, director of facilities; Javier Taylor, assistant professor of practice for math education; Brett Wood, director of alumni relations; Albert Leding, controller; (back row, from left) Michael Lambeck, assistant men's soccer coach; LeRoy Gardner, head wrestling coach; Brandon Cooper, public safety officer; and David DeGeus, head men's and women's swimming coach.

Test-optional admission policy adopted

The University has adopted a test-optional admission policy following a study that showed there was no direct correlation between academic success at Ozarks and standardized testing.

Under the new policy, which went into effect in January, prospective students applying to Ozarks are no longer required to submit ACT or SAT scores as part of the admission process. Applicants who apply test-optional will receive full consideration for admission, without penalty.

"University of the Ozarks emphasizes a holistic review of a student's application and we believe that factors other than standardized test scores are stronger predictors of a student's potential to succeed in college," said Reggie Hill, assistant vice president for advancement and director of enrollment management. "In fact, our research confirms that the best indicators of academic success at U of O are a student's grade point average, extracurricular activities, co-curricular activities, and the rigor of course work taken during high school."

Prospective students can still submit either the SAT or ACT if they feel their results best represent their academic potential.

"Our objective is to get the most accurate and thorough information as to whether or not a student will be successful at University of the Ozarks," Hill said. "We encourage applicants to send us information that will best help us make that decision."

Competitive candidates desiring admission to U of O under the test-optional policy should have a minimum high school GPA of 2.5 and demonstrate above average performance in the core academic areas of English, math, science, and social science. The Admission Committee focuses on individual grades in each core subject area. The committee also looks for consistent above average academic performance throughout a student's sophomore year, junior year and senior year in high school. Exceptions to the test-optional policy can be made based on a thorough review of an appeal submitted to the Admission Committee.

LIVING HISTORY

FRESHMAN FUELS HISTORY PASSION AS A CIVIL WAR REENACTOR

Freshman John Bowen not only loves history, he lives history.

For the past five years, Bowen, a history major from Hartman, Ark., has taken part in Civil War reenactments several times a year throughout the region as part of the 22nd Arkansas Volunteer Infantry unit of the Confederate Army. In October he participated in a reenactment of a little known Johnson County skirmish in 1865 called the Battle of Little Piney.

"I feel like I'm playing a small part in helping bring these types of lost history moments back to life," said Bowen, a 2016 graduate of Clarksville High School. "These reenactments help us better understand the conditions and environment that our forefathers and ancestors fought and lived in. The better we understand our history, the better we understand ourselves."

Bowen was recently promoted to quartermaster sergeant, which means he is responsible for keeping up with supplies and gear and for outfitting the men in his unit.

"It can be a lot of responsibility and can be time-consuming but it gives me a new perspective on how these companies were supplied and how they were dressed," he said. "There were a lot of challenges in getting companies supplied in those times."

Bowen first got involved in reenactments when he was a freshman in high school as part of a family endeavor. Like many Civil War reenactors, he had what he calls his "golden moment" during one of his first reenactments.

"For a brief moment it's no longer 2016; you're actually transported back to 1862 and you literally feel like you are there on the battlefield," Bowen said. "If you're someone who loves history as much as I do, to have the ability to be a part of historical events in a sense is a great experience."

An aspiring college history professor, Bowen said the element he enjoys most about being a reenactor is the educational aspect.

"When you're in uniform and talking to people, especially children, they tend to pay much more attention and you can see their eyes light up," Bowen said. "I love to talk to children about Civil War history and show them the uniforms and the rifles and the other gear. All of a sudden they are in awe and for a moment they aren't interested in video games or watching TV. It might actually inspire them to go to the library and read a book about a historical event. It's sad when I see so many people, even college students, who can't tell you who fought in the Civil War and why the war was fought. If I can do my small part in helping to educate people about the importance of history, it's all worth it. That's what drives me."

CARTER, HILL JOIN ADVANCEMENT STAFF

Two new administrators have joined the University's Advancement Office in recent months. Leslie Carter was named director of development in September and Reggie Hill joined U of O in October as assistant vice president for advancement and director of enrollment management.

Lori McBee, vice president for advancement, said, "Ozarks is blessed to have the talents of Leslie and Reggie joining the Advancement team. They both bring great strengths that will help move us forward with future vision, planned growth, and developing excellent opportunities for our students."

Carter brings to Ozarks more than 20 years of experience in non-profit advancement in the areas of development, college and community relations, annual giving, major gifts and stewardship, alumni and family relations and church relations.

She founded her own fund-raising consultant company and has also worked in alumni relations, development and major gifts at Appalachian State University, Lees-McRae College and Guilford College. Carter earned her bachelor's degree in English from Elon College in North Carolina.

"I deeply believe in faith-based education for young people," Carter said. "At Ozarks, we significantly enrich lives and teach our students to live their lives fully."

Leslie Carter

Reggie Hill

Hill, who will oversee the university's admissions and financial aid departments, most recently served as assistant vice president of enrollment at Saint Leo University in Florida,

A native of St. Petersburg, Fla., Hill earned both his undergraduate degree and an MBA from Saint Leo University.

He said his philosophy in helping students enroll in college is "providing access and opportunity regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, gender, age, or socioeconomic status. It is important that we empower students at home—in Arkansas—then strategically position ourselves regionally and in key international markets."

U of O awarded bachelor's degrees to 11 students during the Fall 2016 Commencement ceremony, held Dec. 17 in Munger-Wilson Chapel. Those students who received degrees included, (front row, from left) Angela Brooks of Phoenix, Ariz.; Whitney Wunderlich of Chidester, Ark.; Madeleine Harred of Cumby, Texas; Sandra Davis of Waco, Texas; Quincey Stickley of Clarksville; (back row, from left) Spencer Richie of North Little Rock, Ark.; Zachary Zbylut of Little Elm, Texas; Nicholas Conard of Dallas, Texas; Dean Igert of Fort Gibson, Okla.; Cameron Shiels of Fort Worth, Texas; and Caleb Brown of Alma, Ark.

INSPIRED BY EIGHT

SENIOR ART MAJOR IS MOTIVATED BY HER EIGHT CHILDREN

Senior art major Amanda Rose Fields doesn't have to look long or far for either her artistic or educational inspirations. She has eight of them she sees daily.

Fields, an art and education major from Mulberry, Ark., said she has drawn inspiration for both her artwork and educational pursuits from raising her eight children, whose ages range from 6 to 17. She presented her Senior Art Exhibit, "Huge Sweet Mess," in December in the Stephens Gallery. Fields said the art installations in "Huge Sweet Mess" represent the joys and struggles of being a parent.

"Being a mother of eight, I have witnessed thousands of sweet messes my sweet children have made," Fields said. "Sometimes they are small, but to a stressed mommy they appear huge. Over time I have learned instead of getting upset, I should just find humor in my children's disorder. I now look to their untidiness for inspiration in my artwork."

After graduating from high school in 1995, Fields went on to earn an associate degree in education at a two-year college. Her plans to complete her bachelor's degree at a four-year college were interrupted for the next 15 years as she and her husband Darren raised their family.

Fields decided four years ago to return to college and pursue her dream of becoming an art teacher. She quickly realized that Ozarks was the place for her.

"It had always bothered me that I had not completed a degree," Fields said. "When my children were old enough, I decided I would try and return to college. I did not tell anyone but my immediate family because I was afraid I would fail. I took one art class at Ozarks to test the waters. It was a design class with Professor Tammy Harrington. I absolutely loved the class. I gained confidence in myself during this class. The first semester was rough. It was an adjustment for me and my family. After I completed that first semester, I was amazed that I had actually done it. It made me more determined to complete a degree. After each semester passed, I gained more confidence in myself."

Fields said one of her biggest fears about returning to college was quickly put to rest by the Ozarks community.

"I was afraid I would not fit in because of my age, but the students and the professors have been so amazing. It's like a big family here," she said. "They have taken me in and made me feel like I fit in from the very first day."

Fields credits her Ozarks professors for providing the encouragement and support in her educational journey.

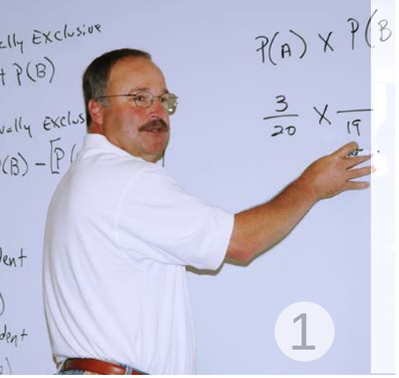
"I have met the best professors in the world at Ozarks," Fields said. "They've never made me feel like the 'old' student. I have the best of both worlds. Because I am an education minor and an art major, I come and go between the two worlds. I have an art family and art teachers that motivate me and encourage me to do great art. I also have an education family and education teachers who motivate and encourage me to be the best teacher. I will take these two worlds and create my own wonderful art classroom. "

Being a nontraditional student has had its challenges for Fields, but she said she has received daily inspiration.

"The best motivation I have is my children encouraging me," Fields said. "Even when we struggle with balancing all their activities and lack of finances, I forget all of that because my children think it is amazing that their mommy is in school to be a teacher. I feel I am being a great role model to them, but their faith in me is what keeps me going. I cannot let my children down or myself. I love to hear my youngest daughter say 'my mommy is an artist, she is going to be my art teacher.'"

When Fields walks across the stage in May to receive her diploma, she expects to be overwhelmed with emotion.

"I will be proud of myself for obtaining my degree and proud of myself for being a role model to my kids," she said. "I have been wanting a diploma for more than 20 years. It has been a dream, and I will have finally reached it."



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CAMPUS *headliners*

1

ROBERT WOFFORD, chair of the business program and associate professor of economics and business, served as the emcee at the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) Arkansas District 1 Conference, held in Fort Smith in January. Wofford received a certificate of appreciation from FBLA for years of volunteer service with the organization.

2

The KUOZ 6 TEAM of students, faculty and staff produced more than five live hours of local, state and national election coverage in November. The broadcast, led by senior David Estrada, received more than 3,000 views throughout the evening.

3

In A NEW HOMECOMING TRADITION, the University student body selected 14 students as Homecoming Student Ambassadors in October. These students were chosen by their peers for their excellence in the classroom, tireless school spirit, outstanding leadership, and selfless service to others. The two seniors who received the highest number of votes were Aubrey Seiss *(pictured with President Richard Dunsworth)* and Sandra Davis *(pictured in photo on the bottom-right #8)*.

4

Assistant Professor of Education/Science Education Dr. Allison Freed and her 3 Dimensions of Science class presented a FAMILY SCIENCE NIGHT at Lamar Elementary School in November. The U of O teacher education students who took part in the project were, Stephanie Alderson, Grace Brown, Lindy Hignite, Mackenzie Kimbriel, Taylor Loftis, Ariana Lujan, Ana Ojeda Gonzalez, Karen Ramirez Barraza, Lindsey Stehle and April Townsend.

5

DR. AMY OATIS, assistant professor of practice of English, completed her Ph.D. in English from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville in December. Her thesis was titled, *"The Best Soil of Their Hearts: Protestant Explorations of Catholic Spirituality in Cooper, Longfellow and Hawthorne."*

6

The UNIVERSITY THEATRE CAPTURED 12 HONORS, including the prestigious Directors' Choice and Respondent's Choice awards, at the 2016 Arkansas Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival, held Oct. 28-29 in Fort Smith. Three University Theatre students —Rhett Sells, Kurt Bennett and Haley Hanks —won the Irene Ryan Acting Award for their performances at the festival. In addition, Professor Bruce B. Brown won Excellence in Scenic Design and Excellence in Costume Design awards, and Lucas Hoiland, assistant professor of practice of theatre, won an Excellence in Technical Direction honor. Students James Allen and Daniel Hall each won both an Excellence in Honor Crew and Pride of the Honor Crew awards.

7

The FIVE FINALISTS IN THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF PROJECT POET in October were (from left) Rebekah Moore, Jake Sawyer, Nathan Miller, Emilie Williams and Ariana Lujan. Williams took home the top honors of the title of Poet Laureate of the Spadra Valley and the grand prize of $1,000. Moore finished second in the annual poetry competition. All five finalists won cash prizes for reaching the final round.

8

GRADUATING SENIOR SANDRA DAVIS, a theatre major from Waco, Texas, was selected by her classmates to provide the senior's welcome during the 2016 Fall Commencement ceremony in December in Munger-Wilson Chapel. Davis graduated with Magna Cum Laude honors.

6

5

7

8

US of U of O

In the fall, Clarksville photographer Gil Lebois presented a collection of black and white photography titled, “US of U of O.” The photographs were taken early in the semester and featured more than 100 students, faculty, staff and alumni of the University in a series of group and individual portraits. A native of Saint-Etienne, France, Lebois said he wanted to capture the essence of the Ozarks family in the series. “We all do our best to be ‘stars’ of ourselves in the line of our present and our future,” he said. “My idea of showing this was by blending large groups, small groups and individual faces in a series of strips. I could have easily titled it ‘Stars and Stripes.’” Lebois has been a professional photographer for more than 35 years.

LEGAL *Eagles*

ALUMNI ARE FINDING SUCCESS IN THE LAW

U of O alumni are thriving throughout the country in law and public policy careers. We asked 16 of them a variety of questions about their careers and how Ozarks helped prepare them.

'85 Richard Averwater

FEDERAL IMMIGRATION JUDGE
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE
University of Memphis Humphreys School of Law

Averwater '85 was appointed a federal immigration judge by Attorney General Eric Holder in June 2015. He previously served in private practice in Memphis, where he specialized in immigration law. He also has experience as a litigation attorney with the Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance, and as assistant chief counsel with the U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and as an assistant district attorney. In the early 1990s he was a special agent and pilot with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Department of Justice in Tampa, Fla.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES AS A FEDERAL IMMIGRATION JUDGE?

My job as a federal immigration judge in Memphis consists of adjudicating cases involving aliens, the term used in the federal statute. Each case has two parts: (1) Is the alien in the United States unlawfully, and if so, (2) is there any relief from removal that may allow the alien to remain in the United States lawfully. Forms of relief could include asylum, cancellation of removal, and voluntary departure, as examples.

WHAT ARE THE MOST SATISFYING AND CHALLENGING PARTS OF YOUR JOB?

Immigration law is extremely complex and constantly changing. The most satisfying aspect of my job is working very hard to understand the law in a particular case, applying that law to the facts of that case, and having that decision affirmed by the appellate court, meaning my decision was in accord with existing laws. The most challenging part of it is dealing with a very heavy case load, and keeping on top of the ever-changing immigration laws.

HOW DID YOU FIRST GET INTERESTED IN THE LAW?

I first became interested in law as an avenue to become an FBI agent. Although I did become an FBI agent, I later left that agency to work for the Immigration and Naturalization Service, which later became the Department of Homeland Security.

HOW DO YOU BELIEVE YOUR PROFESSORS AT OZARKS HELPED PREPARE YOU FOR YOUR CAREER?

I am so grateful to have attended University of the Ozarks. I specifically credit Gilbert Parks, who taught many of my classes. Mr. Parks taught his students to see different sides of issues, and to understand the other side's position, even when you don't agree with it. The critical thinking taught by Mr. Parks has helped me throughout my career. My four years at Ozarks were among the best of my life.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO COLLEGE STUDENTS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN A CAREER IN LAW?

I would say to be flexible in your career plans. What you want to do might change in the future, especially in the legal field. Study hard, stay far away from all drugs, be honest with everyone, be a good person, and respect everyone equally. Keep yourself in good shape mentally, physically, and spiritually.

(Editor's Note: The subject of this interview is an immigration judge with the Memphis Immigration Court, Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR), U.S. Department of Justice. The views expressed herein are solely his views and do not necessarily represent positions of EOIR or the U.S. Department of Justice.)

'87 Pete Van Dyke

SENIOR LITIGATION COUNSEL AT CNA INSURANCE
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
Notre Dame Law School

As senior litigation counsel for CNA Insurance, Van Dyke '87 manages and resolves many of the company's most significant commercial insurance losses throughout the nation and, occasionally, abroad. After working in private firms in Florida and Indiana for 14 years, Van Dyke, as a result of handling of several large exposure cases for CNA as a litigator, was approached by the company in 2004 to help them manage their highest exposure litigation on a national basis. Van Dyke was elected to the U of O Board of Trustees for a three-year term in January.

DESCRIBE YOUR CURRENT JOB AND WHAT RESPONSIBILITIES IT ENTAILS

My job centers on litigation management. Most of my time is spent evaluating and analyzing claims and lawsuits which have amounts in controversy over $2 million. My charge is to gain a comprehensive understanding of these cases and then develop a strategy for the most successful resolution possible for CNA's policy holders and CNA.

WHAT ARE THE MOST REWARDING AND CHALLENGING ASPECTS OF YOUR JOB?

The most rewarding part of my job is the negotiation phase of each case. I spend a significant portion of my time traveling to mediations and settlement conferences throughout the U.S. Sitting down to resolve a case with the other side is where all of the hard work and effort spent positioning the case culminates in a successful result. Negotiation remains an exhilarating part of my job, particularly when sitting across the table from some of the top plaintiff's attorneys in the country. Nothing tops the adrenaline rush of trying a case, but negotiating can come close. Probably the most challenging part of my current job is dealing with strong personalities. Whether it is opposing counsel, a judge or business partners, dealing with others who have different agendas can present a challenge. My job is to find a way to successfully manage these diverse personalities and still get the desired result. It can be rewarding in its own right, but also frustrating at times.

HOW DID OZARKS PREPARE YOUR FOR YOUR CAREER?

Dr. Gilbert Parks and Dr. Steve Schulte trained me to be a critical thinker through their courses, lectures and informal discussions. Others made an impact upon me for sure, but Dr. Parks and Dr. Schulte taught me to challenge assumptions, deconstruct problems and identify creative solutions. They also pushed me to take risks and to have the self-confidence to act boldly when opportunities arise. The skills they taught me have served me well in my career and I owe them a debt of gratitude that I can never repay. Dr. Parks in particular, as my advisor and primary political science professor, had the most profound impact upon my education and personal development. Also, the culture of the Ozarks campus was transformative for me and I give full credit to Dr. Fritz Ehren and his wife Juanita for establishing that culture during their tenure. Knowing everyone on campus and learning to get along with different types of people was a key for me. I believe a student can "hide" on a large campus if they are so inclined. There was no hiding at Ozarks, and that made me grow as a person.
A diverse educational background can be an important factor in overall success, both in law school and in one's legal career. Obtaining a well-rounded, liberal arts education which stresses critical thinking and creative analysis will best serve prospective law students. That is the type of education I received at University of the Ozarks.

Orvil Loge

'90

DISTRICT ATTORNEY
MUSKOGEE COUNTY, OKLAHOMA
Oklahoma City University School of Law

After graduating from law school at Oklahoma City University in 1994, Loge '90 moved to Muskogee, Okla., and began a 20-year career in private practice. In 2014, he decided to run for district attorney and, after eight months of daily campaigning and in his first attempt at public office, he defeated a two-term incumbent. He is currently in his second year of a four-year term.

HOW DID YOU FIRST GET INTERESTED IN THE LAW?

I knew in high school I wanted to be a lawyer. I was motivated by a court case in my home town where a friend was killed by a drunk driver. I attended the trial and was impressed by the way the attorneys worked a courtroom and jury.

WHAT ASPECT OF YOUR JOB TO FIND THE MOST REWARDING?

Each day I have the chance to help an innocent victim and change their life. The public only sees what I do everyday in the newspaper. I take pride in speaking with everybody who comes to my office and has questions or who just want to let me know something about a loved one that has something to do with a case I filed.

WHAT IS THE MOST DIFFICULT PART OF YOUR JOB?

The most challenging part is dealing with children of sexual or physical abuse. I have a specialized victim coordinator for those children and we spend a lot of time on their cases.

HOW DO YOU BELIEVE YOU ARE HELPING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LEGAL SYSTEM?

I believe I make a difference by taking time to understand the situation and determining what needs to be done. For example, a request was submitted by the medical examiner to exhume the unidentified remains of a female in 1983. They wanted to compare the remains with a missing female from Tulsa in 1981. We exhumed the wrong person because the cemetery records in the early 1980s were not the best. A separate investigation began into finding the grave with the correct remains. After two months we tried again and were successful. We sent the remains off for specialized DNA testing and it took approximately one year to get a match. I remember the medical examiner calling me and telling me to sit down and read my email. We brought answers to the family of the missing female after 30 years. I enjoy taking the time to delve into a case and a victims situation and do something that can help them.

HOW DID OZARKS PREPARE YOU FOR YOUR CAREER?

I knew when I began at Ozarks that I wanted to prepare myself for law school. Gil Parks was my advisor and all of his classes where very good for me. He advised me to apply to OCU Law School and I appreciate all his advice. Ozarks has professors that took the time to work with students. I can remember professors like Buddy Smith, Loyce Ann Taylor, Robert and Randy Hilton, Len Bradley and Caroline Whitson. I never thought I would enjoy Shakespeare until it was taught by Dr. Whitson. I know I'm forgetting many more who made my experience at Ozarks so rewarding.

Joseph Reece

'94

MANAGING PARTNER AT REECE MOORE PENDERGRAFT LLP
FAYETTEVILLE, ARKANSAS
Mercer Law School

An accounting major at U of O, Reece '94 is a tax attorney with an emphasis in estate planning for large estates. He is also involved in tax litigations, business transactions as well as mergers and acquisitions. In 2005, Reece and two other attorneys founded RMP, which has become the fastest growing law firm in Arkansas with three offices in the state and clients from across the country. He also has a master of laws degree in estate planning and taxation from the University of Miami.

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT PRACTICING LAW AND YOUR SPECIFIC SPECIALTIES?

It isn't redundant. My specific practice allows me to represent families from all over the country. Most of the clients I end up representing have very diverse business interests and investments. Therefore, I may be dealing with a transaction involving oil and gas exploration on Monday, the sale of a chain of franchise stores on Tuesday, establishing trusts in Delaware on Wednesday, intellectual property matters the day after that and so on. My family and friends can tell you that I like variety in my life. The ability to keep work interesting is the most rewarding aspect of my career.

HOW DID MAJORING IN ACCOUNTING AT OZARKS BENEFIT YOU IN YOUR CAREER?

I think the accounting degree has helped me immensely. Being a tax lawyer fits hand-in-hand with having an accounting foundation. In addition to employing attorneys, I also employ CPAs and accounting professionals. Understanding accounting concepts and the meaning of various financial statements allowed me to more effectively analyze and digest client information in both tax cases as well as business transactions. While I don't think I could ever be an accountant in the normal everyday sense of what an average accounting practice looks like, I have never regretted pursuing the degree in college.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE COLLEGE-AGE STUDENTS WANTING TO PURSUE A CAREER IN LAW?

First, talk to as many different attorneys who are in practice as possible, preferably attorneys who have been at it longer than five years. Many people who choose to pursue a career in law have serious misconceptions about day to day practice. As a result, they often are disappointed in the profession after they have practiced for a few years and the newness and excitement of the career has abated. Second, be good at conflict. I am amazed at the people who enter the legal field who are unable or unwilling to have conflict with others. The practice of law is about advocating. If that bothers you, don't become an attorney. That said, don't go to law school because you are simply good at arguing. Being a good lawyer requires much more than simply arguing. Third, reading and writing are incredibly important because legal practice is really about communication. Be sure to focus your academic pursuits so you are enabled to enter law school with the ability to read and digest a lot of material and to write well. Finally, you had better be ready to work hard. The two most common complaints about younger attorneys from their older mentors are that they have an entitlement mentality and they have a complete lack of appreciation of the workload required to develop and maintain a successful practice. Working hard, having integrity, being humble, being patient and paying your dues are the quickest ways to achieve lasting success.

Matt David

VICE PRESIDENT OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS FOR MATCH GROUP
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA
University of Tulsa College of Law

'01

David '01 has had a whirlwind career in politics, public policy and communications since graduating from law school in 2004. He has worked on numerous administrative staffs and political campaigns, both on the state and national levels, including the George W. Bush White House and for California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger as deputy chief of staff. He currently serves as vice president of public affairs for Match Group and head of marketing and communications for Tinder, where he oversees corporate communications, government relations, public relations and brand marketing.

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY THE MOST ABOUT YOUR CURRENT POSITION?

The transition from politics to tech has been interesting—more overlap in strategies and tactics than I expected. When you're working for a brand like Tinder who's covered by the media more often than any other tech company of comparable cap size, it presents unique challenges. Tinder is used in over 190 countries and 42 languages. Trying to shape media narratives and brand perceptions worldwide is the most enjoyable part of my job.

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR FAVORITE JOB AND WHY?

While working in politics, I was fortunate to work for people I believed in, who understood the meaning of compromise and moderation -- which is exactly why I lost a lot of elections. Joking aside, working for Governor Schwarzenegger was a remarkable experience, and I'm lucky to call him a friend and mentor today. I traveled the globe with him. Once a week we laughed so hard I cried. At the same time, he got the most out of me professionally, constantly challenging me to "think bigger." If you ever answered a question with, "that's how its been done in the past," you were in for a serious lecture.

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY ABOUT BEING INVOLVED IN POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS?

It's the closest thing to playing a sport. You know at the end of each day whether you won or lost. Playing soccer at the University of the Ozarks was probably some of the best preparation I had for my career.

WHAT WAS YOUR GREATEST TAKE-AWAY FROM WORKING WITH GOV. SCHWARZENEGGER?

To challenge the status quo, always stop and look at things from a different angle. His administration was filled with Republicans and Democrats. Ideology was left at the front door. It wasn't about a Republican idea or a Democrat idea; it was always about the best idea.

HOW DID YOUR OZARKS EXPERIENCE PREPARE YOU FOR YOUR CAREER?

I was fortunate enough to have the guidance of Dr. Gilbert Parks while I was at the Ozarks. I really don't think I fully understood what critical thinking was about until he pushed me outside my comfort zone and challenged traditional norms. The English literature class with Dr. David Strain was also important to my world view. When we went to London that summer, I knew I would be back. I do a lot of intentional travel in my current role, and London is still one of my favorites. Playing soccer for coaches Dave De Hart and Scott Placek really taught me how to deal with both success and failure. I probably use way too many sports metaphors on a daily basis, but I do believe in winning and losing as a team in business and politics.

Kendra Jones

DIRECTOR SR. COUNSEL AT WINDSTREAM COMMUNICATIONS
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS
University of Arkansas School of Law

'01

A political science and biology major at Ozarks, (Akin) Jones '01 had a 10-year career practicing environmental law with the Arkansas Attorney General's Office before joining the telecommunications company Windstream Communications as director senior counsel. In her short career, she has argued before the Arkansas Supreme Court, served as counsel of record on an amicus brief to the US Supreme Court with 30 other states, and represented Arkansas in a high-profile lawsuit against Exxon over the 2013 oil spill in Mayflower, Ark.

HOW DID YOU FIRST GET INTEREST IN LAW?

I took a class with Dr. Gilbert Parks and it wasn't long until I was drawn into political science. I didn't decide to switch from going to medical school to law school until my first senior year. When I graduated, I earned a degree in both biology and political science.

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY THE MOST ABOUT YOUR CURRENT POSITION?

Windstream is a fortune 500 company for telephone and internet services across the U.S. I oversee a team that works on litigation, disputes and contingencies for the company. I enjoy the challenge and the constant change. There is never a dull moment. I also enjoy working for a company providing internet access to rural parts of the U.S.

HOW HAS YOUR BIOLOGY DEGREE BEEN BENEFICIAL IN YOUR CAREER?

My biology degree was very helpful when I was practicing environmental law. It was useful in reviewing and understanding issues and reports. Also, it was great to be able to understand the people I worked with and talked with on a daily basis. I still think my science background is helpful today in that it impacts the way I approach my cases—a different kind of analytical approach. I also tell my young associates or paralegals to make sure they go beyond the surface and look at the column of information, which is a reference to water sampling. It is important to look beyond what you see on the surface of an issue because it may vary as you get deeper. In a column water sample the presence of minerals, or whatever you are sampling for, may vary depending on the depth.

WHAT IS LIKE TO BE INVOLVED IN HIGH-PROFILE CASES?

High-profile cases always bring a new level of scrutiny to every decision. My highest profile ones have probably been the permitting for the SWEPCO Turk Coal Power Plant in Hempstead County, the Exxon Pegasus Pipeline rupture in Mayflower, and the permitting and building of the Big River Steel plant in Osceola. A high profile case or issue means all eyes are on every decision or recommendation you make, every filing is poured over, ever move is over-thought. Environmental law tends to have more issues like this because it typically has a bigger impact on people's lives. Litigation for a company can be very high profile too, but the review comes from the executives, the board members and the shareholders who we answer to for our decisions and recommendations. One thing that I think the high-profile cases teach you is to always be confident in what you are doing, be sure in your decisions, and be concise and certain with communications.

'01 Megann McManus

ASSOCIATE, MEYER SUOZZI ENGLISH & KLEIN. P.C.
NEW YORK CITY
Rutgers School of Law

After graduating from Ozarks with a degree in theatre, McManus '01 worked a variety of jobs in New York City before landing a position with the Actor's Equity Association, the union that represents actors and stage managers in live theatre. She was ultimately promoted to director of staff development, a role that focused on recruiting, hiring, and training employees as well as employment and labor law compliance issues. That work sparked an interest in the law and prompted her to attend law school. She currently works with an NYC firm in its labor and employment practice group representing private and public sector labor unions and employees.

HOW DID A THEATRE MAJOR FROM EL DORADO, ARK., END UP PRACTICING LAW IN NEW YORK CITY?

The path to the law was pretty winding for me. I didn't know any lawyers when I was growing up in El Dorado, and I didn't have any aspirations of becoming an attorney while at Ozarks. I don't think I really knew what a lawyer did outside of what I saw on television and movies until I moved to New York and started working for the actors' union. Actor's Equity had really great outside counsel and I had the good fortune of working with them while in my human resources job. That's when I could envision the actual work of being an attorney, and I thought I would enjoy it. Also around this time, 2009, the world felt completely upturned as a result of the financial crisis. Hunkering down would have been the safe bet, but I thought it was a good time to make a big change and quit my job. I was inspired to attend Rutgers Law School in particular because that's where Elizabeth Warren earned her J.D., and I was huge fan of hers for the sharp insight she brought during those uncertain times. Then, right after law school, I clerked for an appellate court judge in New Jersey, and I am licensed in New Jersey as well. So apart from the luck of getting a job offer from an NYC firm, I could just as easily be practicing law in New Jersey.

WHAT IS IT LIKE TO PRACTICE LAW IN NEW YORK CITY?

In a way, I think practicing law in New York is probably a lot like practicing law anywhere else because the majority of my time is spent sitting at my desk reading and writing. It just so happens that my office window looks out over Macy's in Herald Square. However, I am well aware of the reputation that comes along with being a "New York Lawyer." Movies and television are likely to blame for that notion, but also I think that there is a real archetype inspired by the competitive spirit and pure grit required to succeed in any profession in this town. Everyone here works really hard and every profession is super competitive. I remember when I first moved here I couldn't get a job waiting tables. Restaurateurs thought that since I hadn't waited tables in New York City, then obviously I didn't know how. I don't think it works like that anywhere else, which is why it's absolutely true that if you can "make it" here, in whatever "it" may be, you can "make it" anywhere.

HOW DID OZARKS PREPARE YOU FOR YOUR CAREER?

I had great professors at Ozarks. Dr. Pat Farmer, Professor Bruce Brown and the entire theatre program was rigorous and grounded. The skills I learned in the theatre program at Ozarks—acting, designing, and even welding—prepared me for all of the various jobs I've had. But for lawyering, specifically, theatre training was the ideal preparation. My job requires me to perform in front of all kinds of tough critics, such as arbitrators and judges, and to improvise quickly in public. And I think it's a misconception that acting is pretending. It's really about being authentic and fully focused under a given set of circumstances, and really, that's my job when I am advocating for a client. To be good at my job, I need to be 100 percent present and bring my whole authentic self to help solve whatever the issue may be. I use acting techniques to keep focused on my goals of advocating and persuading and to avoid distracting and self-defeating thoughts.

'03 Michelle Simpson

SR. COUNSEL AND DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT CONTRACT COMPLIANCE AT WINDSTREAM COMMUNICATIONS
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS
UA-Little Rock Bowen School of Law

After graduating from Ozarks, Simpson '03 initially pursued a master's degree in public policy and worked at various museums in Little Rock, including the Central High School National Historic Site and Historic Arkansas Museum. She decided to begin law school in 2008 and clerked several places, including the state attorney general's office and Windstream. She joined Windstream as an entry-level attorney in 2012 and has received several promotions over the past five years, including to senior counsel in January of 2017.

HOW DID YOU FIRST GET INTERESTED IN THE LAW?

I never had that "ah ha" moment where I suddenly realized I wanted to be an attorney. It was something I'd always been interested in, but hadn't seriously considered until well after graduation. I enjoyed my work at the Historic Arkansas Museum, but was struggling to get motivated to finish my master's thesis and just felt like I needed to find something more challenging. After considering my options, I kept coming back to a legal career as something that would keep me challenged and I felt like it fit my strengths—namely researching and writing. It was a little scary to quit my full-time job at the museum to start a new career path, but it was the best thing I've ever done professionally.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR POSITION AND ITS RESPONSIBILITIES?

I am a transactional attorney in Windstream's legal department and am primarily tasked with our commercial contracting matters—reviewing, negotiating, drafting, and advising on contract disputes. Additionally, Windstream contracts with a number of government entities, including the federal government, and as such, we are subject to a number of rules, statutes, and regulations in the government contracting space. My job as director of government contract compliance is to ensure we maintain compliance with these requirements. There's never a shortage of complex contracting or compliance issues to occupy my time, and as a result I feel like I'm constantly learning new things and developing new skills. Those new skills might manifest as a new approach to a negotiation point or researching an entirely new area of the law for me in order to advise an internal client on an issue. There are many days when I walk away from the office feeling mentally exhausted, either due to the complexity of some issue I'm working on or the sheer volume of crazy that's come my way that day. But the work I do is rarely slow or boring and that's probably what I enjoy most about my job.

HOW DID OZARKS PREPARE YOU FOR YOUR CAREER?

As an English major, I was required to think critically and analytically. I honed those skills in law school, but class discussion and writing assignments during my time at Ozarks really developed those skills and gave me a great head start in law school.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE COLLEGE STUDENTS INTERESTED IN PURSUING A LAW CAREER?

Take your time making the decision to enter law school, although maybe not five years like I did. A career in the legal field can be very rewarding, but people should know that it's also a lot of work. In my experience, law school was absolutely nothing like undergraduate or even graduate school. Not preparing for that ahead of time can be very humbling for someone who did well as an undergraduate student and thinks they're just going to breeze through. Do some research before you make a decision so you'll be better prepared for law school and beyond.

'04

Euticha Hawkins

ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA
William & Mary School of Law

After graduating from Ozarks with degrees in English and religion, (Pennington) Hawkins '04 spent several years working in Virginia as a clerk in the local court system, which sparked her interest in pursuing a law degree from William & Mary in Williamsburg, Va. As an assistant attorney general in the Virginia Attorney General's Office, Hawkins assists the Opinions Counsel in reviewing or drafting legal opinions that are ultimately issued by the Attorney General. This type of legal opinion is essentially a response to a state or local government official who has asked a particular question, seeking clarification of the law.

'05

Clifton Cottrell

RESEARCH ANALYST AT THE NATIVE AMERICAN FINANCIAL SERVICES ASSOCIATION
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON
Baylor University School of Law

Armed with a law degree from Baylor University and a master's degree in public affairs from the University of Texas, Cottrell '05 serves as a research analyst at the Native American Financial Services Association, a non-profit trade association committed to the promotion of the financial sector within Indian Country, financial literacy, and protection of tribal sovereign rights. Cottrell said he "acts as an analytical clearinghouse for information on federal legislation, legal issues, consumer preferences, and financial technology trends for our staff, member Tribes, and their tribal enterprises."

WHAT IS THE MOST REWARDING PART OF YOUR JOB?

What fascinates me the most about law is how it touches on every aspect of life and human endeavor. It's a field so rich and deep that one could spend their whole life in just one area of it and never truly "reach the bottom." It's a great field for the intellectually curious. The most rewarding part of my job is being able to learn something new each day. Because there are few limits on the types of topics that may be addressed in an Attorney General's opinion, I get to work with fresh and contemporary questions in many different areas of law. For instance, since I have been in this position, I have had the opportunity to research novel issues in areas as diverse as criminal law, family law, education law, government law, real estate law, and tax law. It's exciting to know that virtually any topic may arise next, and it's a wonderful to have a role in the process of helping provide answers to challenging questions.

WHAT IS IT LIKE TO BE A WOMAN IN THE FIELD OF LAW?

To be sure, challenges still exist for women in the legal field. Law has traditionally been viewed as a male profession, and change is sometimes slow to surface in the legal profession. Despite the tremendous gains made by women in the field, we are still largely underrepresented in the highest echelons of law—such as making partner in a large firm or being appointed to the federal bench. As an optimist, however, I think there is every reason to be hopeful. As women continue to enter the field and advocate for change, I believe the boundaries will continue to soften until they are eliminated. In addition, I believe that people of good will—regardless of their political persuasion or creed—can advocate on behalf of women in the profession and speak out in favor of the unique perspective they bring. While I am fortunate to work in a firm that values women highly and fosters their success, I realize the battles women have fought to earn acceptance in this field, and that much remains to be done. I am thankful for the women who came before me in this profession, who have made my path a lot easier.

HOW DID YOUR OZARKS EDUCATION PREPARE YOU FOR YOUR CAREER?

In so many ways, Ozarks and my professors there helped prepare me for this career. First, Ozarks is academically rigorous. It teaches the skills that are often lacking in the world today—skills like critical thought, a familiarity with the liberal arts, and the ability to produce good writing and original thought. These are vital for a person to be considered truly educated, rather than merely trained. I am so thankful to have received this caliber of instruction during my college years. At the same time, my experience at Ozarks helped advance my personal and spiritual growth. The close community at Ozarks ensures an education that nurtures the whole person, not only the intellect. One thing that was very important to me was that my professors really cared about me as a person. I am incredibly grateful for their guidance and advice, which continues to shape who I am today.

HOW DID YOU FIRST GET INTERESTED IN THE LAW AND PUBLIC POLICY?

Working in the public sector and closely with businesses, understanding the law is essential to your job. I don't like being left out of the conversation, so a strong background in the law becomes a necessity. It didn't hurt that Ozarks really fostered my interest in legal and factual discovery through the diversity of courses I took in the political science department.

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY THE MOST ABOUT YOUR CURRENT JOB AND ITS RESPONSIBILITIES?

My favorite part of the job right now is its potential. Tribes are just beginning to skim the surface of this industry. Much of the data that I pull and the reports I write are fresh; it is often the first time our staff and members have even read about it. Being a pioneer in this space and helping craft our narrative is an exciting and rewarding experience.

HOW DO YOU BELIEVE YOU ARE HELPING MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR NATIVE AMERICANS?

Despite the proliferation of casinos near Ozarks in Oklahoma, most of Indian Country is still suffering. Less than half of the federally-recognized tribes even operate casinos, and only a few of them turn a meaningful profit. I grew up in Oklahoma and am an enrolled member of the Cherokee Nation, so these issues really hit home for me. The reality is that most tribal communities are geographically, economically, and socially isolated. Poverty levels on reservations are considerably higher than the national average. Some reservations have unemployment rates above 50 percent. E-commerce is an opportunity for tribal communities located far from economic hubs and populated metros. The work I do is helping tribes create jobs and fund their sovereign government functions. When our members are successful, the money doesn't help a CEO buy another yacht or summer home; that money builds schools, improves hospitals, funds social programs for the elderly, and preserves a culture.

HOW DID OZARKS PREPARE YOU FOR LAW SCHOOL AND YOUR CAREER?

Law school forces you to evaluate multifaceted problems and engineer a response that gives your side the best shot at a positive outcome. It is more than memorizing a bunch of code books and case facts. My professors at Ozarks forced me to think critically and apply my knowledge base to real world issues. I wouldn't be where I am today without Dr. Stewart Dippel encouraging me to dig deeper into a problem or Dr. Steve Oatis taking the time to help me properly structure and analyze a complex historical issue. The interactions and discussions inherent in our classes gave me the confidence to speak clearly and coherently in law school and beyond. The education I received at Ozarks set me up to succeed.

'06 Brett Hays

DIRECTOR OF AUDITS AND INVESTIGATIONS FOR THE OFFICE OF MEDICAID INSPECTIOR GENERAL
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS
UA-Little Rock Bowen School of Law

As the director of audits and investigations for the Office of Medicaid Inspector General for the past two years, Hays '06 leads a team of auditors, nurses, clinicians, investigators, and data analysts that is responsible for preventing and detecting fraud, waste, and abuse within the Arkansas Medicaid program. He works closely with the Medicaid Inspector General and chief counsel on developing and implementing strategies that promote integrity within the Arkansas Medicaid program. He previously worked in a policy development position within the Department of Human Services as well as with a private law firm.

HOW DID YOU FIRST GET INTERESTED IN THE LAW?

My entire life I have enjoyed playing the role of devil's advocate in a discussion involving any issue. That interest in analyzing issues from all possible viewpoints was further enhanced by Dr. Stewart Dippel and Dr. Gilbert Parks in the political science program. The challenges they presented to me on a day-to day-basis prepared me to think like an attorney. After one year of classes with them, I knew I wanted to attend law school.

WHAT IS THE MOST REWARDING ASPECT OF YOUR CURRENT JOB?

It is very gratifying to know that our agency's hard work protects Arkansans who rely on Medicaid to cover the cost of their medical services. Not only does Medicaid fraud result in the loss of state dollars, but it often deprives Medicaid beneficiaries of medically necessary services. My job is also very rewarding because of the new challenges it presents on a day-to-day basis. In one day I could be preparing for a Medicaid provider suspension hearing, interviewing a speech therapist, reviewing an audit of an optometrist, or drafting a Medicaid policy change recommendation. I have never had two days that were exactly the same, and I can honestly say that I am excited for the new challenge that every day presents.

WHAT IS THE MOST CHALLENGING PART OF YOUR WORK?

The variety of work that I tackle on a day-to-day basis is one of the most rewarding parts of my job and the most challenging. Attorneys, whether they are in a traditional law practice or a position like mine, must strive to be an expert in multiple areas. In my role, I have to become an expert on the medical services that are the focus of an audit, investigation, or agency initiative. Whether you are a college student or seasoned attorney, you should always seek opportunities to learn something new. At the time, knowledge you acquire may seem insignificant, but may pay large dividends at a later point in your career.

HOW DID OZARKS AND YOUR PROFESSORS PREPARE YOU FOR YOUR CAREER?

I always felt that my professors were personally invested and devoted to my success as a student. That devotion motivated me to exceed their expectations they had set for me. I have carried that motivation with me long after my graduation from Ozarks. Further, my experience as a student-athlete on the baseball team was very important in preparing me for my career. Leadership and competitive drive are two of the most important ingredients for success in any occupation a person pursues. The culture of athletics fosters the development of those traits in young people. I feel that the recent expansion of the athletic program at Ozarks is fantastic for current and future students.

'07 Vincent France

ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS
UA-Little Rock Bowen School of Law

France '07 has worked in a variety of areas in the law since graduating from law school in 2009. He started his legal career as a deputy public defender for the 16th Judicial District of Arkansas, where he represented criminal defendants and was able to get immediately into the courtroom. After a little more than a year of being a public defender, he became an associate with Rainwater, Holt & Sexton, P.A., the largest personal injury law firm in Arkansas. While at Rainwater, he handled both personal injury cases and social security cases. After five years at Rainwater, France joined the Arkansas Attorney General's Office in January.

HOW DID YOU FIRST GET INTERESTED IN THE LAW?

I have always had a passion for American history and American politics. While at Ozarks, I realized that the legal profession was a way that I could combine these two passions.

WHAT ARE YOUR JOB RESPONSIBILITIES?

I specifically work in the Civil Department of the Attorney General's Office, which means that if the State of Arkansas, a state agency, or a state employee gets sued then I represent the state and defend it against the lawsuit. There are numerous reasons that a state may be sued. The most common lawsuits are by inmates in prison. Often, people will file a lawsuit against the state because of employment issues, like wrongful termination or discrimination. The third most common reason is a party challenging the constitutionality of a law. I am one of the attorneys responsible for protecting and defending the State of Arkansas in these types of lawsuits.

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY THE MOST ABOUT YOUR CURRENT JOB?

I love working for the Arkansas Attorney General. I am fortunate because I get to represent Arkansas and the citizens of this great state. I truly am a public servant and I take great pride defending our State. I am on the front-lines of many important legal issues facing society and Arkansas today. It is an important responsibility and I am honored to be given this opportunity.

WHAT HAS SURPRISED YOU THE MOST ABOUT PRACTICING LAW?

The most surprising aspect of practicing law is how important it is to be a good writer. Many people think that what makes a good lawyer is his or her ability to speak in public, which is important; however, regardless of the type of law, all good lawyers have to be able to write clearly and effectively. A vast majority of legal issues and situations are resolved by written legal briefs and not through oral argument.

HOW DID YOUR OZARKS EDUCATION PREPARE YOU FOR YOUR CAREER?

I was very fortunate because Ozarks and all the professors, regardless of the subject, placed an emphasis on developing critical thinking and being able to articulate your thoughts and ideas through writing. The small class sizes enabled professors to take time to help each student. I will never be able to thank Ozarks enough for how well it prepared me for my legal career.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE COLLEGE STUDENTS INTERESTED IN A CAREER IN LAW?

The legal profession can be a very rewarding career and it can also be a very demanding career. A student considering a career in law must realize that it requires a significant amount of reading, analyzing, and writing. The education provided by University of the Ozarks will provide you with the proper foundation and tools to begin a successful legal career.

'07 Lee Short

ATTORNEY, SHORT LAW FIRM
NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS
Pepperdine School of Law

A religion and philosophy major at Ozarks, Short '07 earned his law degree from Pepperdine School of Law in California in 2010 before returning to Arkansas where he worked for the James Law Firm in Little Rock. In May of 2016 he decided to open his own criminal defense and appellate law practice in North Little Rock. He has been named to the Mid-South Super Lawyers Rising Stars list for criminal defense and has been tabbed as one of the top attorneys in Little Rock for three consecutive years by Soiree magazine.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE CHALLENGES OF OPENING AND RUNNING YOUR OWN LAW FIRM?

One challenge is that your income varies greatly from month to month. You have to learn to be responsible after a good month in the event you have one or two that are not as profitable. Additionally, I am not a business person and sometimes I can get overwhelmed with things like marketing, scheduling and ordering supplies.

WHAT ARE YOUR AREAS OF EXPERTISE AND WHY DO YOU ENJOY THESE AREAS OF THE LAW?

I primarily practice criminal defense and appellate law. I enjoy criminal defense because it is motivating to stand up for people who are down and out against the power of the State or Federal Government. I have a purpose every day and can truly change the lives of my clients based upon my work. Appeals are an important part of my practice because it gives me the opportunity to change the law in important ways.

HOW DID OZARKS PREPARE YOU FOR A CAREER IN LAW?

Dr. William Eakin and Dr. Stewart Dippel both impacted my way of thinking in different and positive ways. Dr. Eakin's philosophy and logic lessons are with me on a daily basis. Those lessons influence everything from how I approach the jury in closing argument to how I write appellate briefs. Dr. Dippel's lessons were about life, being a good person, and how to interact with different kinds of people. Those lessons are invaluable when representing clients from all walks of life charged with everything from possession of a controlled substance to capital murder.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE COLLEGE STUDENTS WHO ARE WANTING TO PURSUE A CAREER IN LAW?

Find something that you are passionate about in the law. The job you do as an attorney can influence whether someone goes to prison, loses their children, or loses their life savings. If you are not passionate, then you are going to fail to help those people, and that can have devastating consequences.

'12 Ashley Holman

ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY
KAUFMANN COUNTY, TEXAS
Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law

As a law student, Holman '12 got a taste of criminal law when she clerked at various local and state agencies, including the Collin County Crimes Against Children Unit and the Texas Attorney General's Criminal Prosecution Division. After law school, Holman joined the District Attorney's Office in Kaufmann County, Texas, just outside Dallas. As an assistant district attorney, Holman spends much of her time meeting with victims and witnesses and examining criminal cases submitted by local law enforcement to decide whether charges should be advanced.

HOW DID YOU FIRST GET INTERESTED IN THE LAW?

I saw a segment on TV when I was maybe 5 years old that allowed callers to call in and get advice from a local professional. There was an attorney by the name of Mary Ann Gunn, who later became a judge, taking callers' questions. I thought, "how neat that this smart pretty lady gets to be on TV and answer people's questions." I spent the rest of my childhood proclaiming my future as an attorney. Later, I realized what being an attorney actually involved, and luckily my goals had evolved as well. Through some different experiences at Ozarks, I knew I wanted a career helping people, plus I have a strange love of reading a well written court opinion which I learned through all of the homework in Dr. Stewart Dippel's classes. So, I just continued down the path 5-year old Ashley had started on.

WHAT IS THE MOST REWARDING PART OF YOUR JOB?

There's a practice we have once a trial is over where we can talk more freely about a case and speak to our jurors. Each attorney, prosecution and defense, if the jurors would like to speak with us, can take a moment after the trial and answer any questions jurors have or see if there is anything we as their county prosecutors did that they liked or didn't like. Those conversations have been some of the most rewarding for me. Despite how media and some Netflix series portray it, the state doesn't walk into a case with a slam-dunk mindset. At the end of the day, if I didn't prove my case beyond a reasonable doubt I want those jurors to respond with a 'not guilty,' because that's their job. My job is to seek justice and if someone is wrongly convicted, that's not justice. I have been so impressed by our community in those conversations. The jurors always have great questions, and have always taken their job seriously to look at all the evidence and make the right determination.

WHAT HAS BEEN THE MOST SURPRISING PART ABOUT PRACTICING LAW?

How much I still feel like I'm that college kid playing basketball at Ozarks on game day. I thought after a while the jittery feeling would kind of dissipate on trial days, but it is literally just like preparing to go play with the Lady Eagles. I've just moved to a different kind of "court," if you will. Confession: I still even listen to some of those songs that I loved listening to before a game driving to the courthouse. I had an older, much wiser, prosecutor tell me the day you think you have it all figured out and those jitters go away in trial you should just hang it up, because these are things that we should be nervous about and want to get right. So I welcome the nerves.

DO YOU THINK IT IS MORE CHALLENGING BEING A WOMAN IN THE LAW PROFESSION?

Such an interesting question. Being a female trial attorney, of course, there are some things I pay attention to in my presentation to jurors that some of my male counterparts may not be as concerned with. We walk a fine line in how aggressively we question, how we phrase things, and certainly in what we wear. I could say that doesn't matter, but if you want jurors to respect and like you, it matters. I've also never been a pound-my-fist-on-the-table and yell around the courtroom sort of litigator, so maybe it has more to do with just trying to be true to myself than abiding by a "gender role."

'14 Cameron Coker

SECOND-YEAR LAW STUDENT
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS
UA-Little Rock Bowen School of Law

In addition to being a second-year law student, Coker '14 is working as a law clerk at the Arkansas Administrative Office of the Courts. He previously worked as a law clerk for the Arkansas Prosecutor Coordinator's Office in Little Rock. He received the top paper honors in both criminal procedure and constitutional law during the Fall 2016 Semester. The Russellville, Ark., native graduated with a degree in history from Ozarks.

HOW DID YOU FIRST GET INTERESTED IN LAW?

Both my father and my uncle are attorneys and most of my inspiration comes from growing up in that environment. I also realized a long time ago that I really enjoyed learning and that I never wanted to stop learning. The academic rigor combined with practical skills needed to become a lawyer attracted me to the field.

WHAT WOULD BE YOUR IDEAL JOB ONCE YOUR GRADUATE FROM LAW SCHOOL?

My ideal job would be working for a state or the federal government, either in administrative law or as a criminal prosecutor. Government and Criminal Law have always been my interests.

HOW DID YOUR OZARKS EDUCATION PREPARE YOU FOR LAW SCHOOL?

Ozarks prepared me for law school by teaching me how to think critically. In law school and the legal field in general you are tasked oftentimes with complex problems that you have to rely on several different authorities of law to solve. It's like a puzzle, fitting every piece where it needs to go is crucial in order to have a clear answer or argument to the problem. Skills that I learned in my study of history at Ozarks, such as advanced reading comprehension skills, research skills, and writing, all have helped me tackle the law and develop my skills in becoming a future lawyer.

WHAT HAS SURPRISED YOU THE MOST ABOUT LAW SCHOOL?

The thing that has surprised me the most about law school is that people were not kidding when they told me how difficult it would be. Many times in my life I had seen how things, especially the difficulty of things, were exaggerated. The common horror stories of law school are very accurate—everything from late nights in the library trying to comprehend opinions on the law from jurists who are long dead, to squirming in your seat in class with dread about being called on by the professor who is practicing the Socratic method. Those stories are all too real and not exaggerated at all and I did not realize or appreciate this fact before I started law school.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE COLLEGE-AGE STUDENTS INTERESTED IN GOING TO LAW SCHOOL?

I would encourage them to learn as much as you can in all of your classes. Having a good base of general knowledge is helpful to the study of law. In addition, if you have not already, begin practicing your research, writing, and reading comprehension skills. They will serve you well in law school. In addition to your academic preparation, professional skills are also important to law students and lawyers alike. Skills like punctuality, diligence, and as one of my law professors said "impeccable preparation" will be expected of you. If you struggle with these skills it is important to begin taking them seriously. There is little patience for those who do not exhibit these characteristics in the legal field.

'15 Kristen Callahan

SECOND-YEAR LAW STUDENT
FAYETTEVILLE, ARKANSAS
University of Arkansas School of Law

As a second-year law student, Callahan '15 stays plenty busy. Not only does she take a full class load, but she serves as the U of A student representative for the Arkansas Bar Association and clerks for the Washington County Public Defender's Office, where she attends court three times a week and works with an average of 40 clients a week. In her duties as a clerk, she spends most of her time either in court, interviewing clients, investigating cases, filing motions and orders, and gathering discovery information.

HOW DID YOU FIRST GET INTERESTED IN THE LAW?

I found my niche in political science classes taught by Dr. Gilbert Parks and Dr. Stewart Dippel at University of the Ozarks. I was lucky enough to visit Washington, D.C. over the summer of 2013 for the Fund for American Studies. It was there that I realized I did not want to go into politics, but I was interested in the law. DOMA was struck down while I was in D.C., and people paraded through the streets in victory. That was something I could do. I wanted to help fight for peoples' rights, whether it is protection from illegal searches or unconstitutional laws. The next logical step was to attend law school.

WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE GOALS?

I hope to continue a career in criminal law, particularly defense work, after I obtain my law degree. My ideal job to start out with would be as a public defender. The case load can be overwhelming and the odds are sometimes stacked against your client, but the job is never dull.

HOW DID AN OZARKS EDUCATION PREPARE YOU FOR LAW SCHOOL?

Ozarks prepared me for law school by allowing me to follow a strict schedule. At Ozarks, I balanced tutoring, soccer, work, and school. Without the discipline to properly schedule every minute of my day, the transition to the workload required for law school would have been much more difficult.

WHAT HAS SURPRISED YOU THE MOST ABOUT LAW SCHOOL?

The people in law school have surprised me the most. I did not know what I was getting myself into, because you hear the rumors that lawyers are all rude or money hungry. The truth is, the people are the best part of law school. It is a tight knit family. When we are not studying or sleeping, we are visiting local eateries, traveling, or bowling. Even working as a law clerk, the atmosphere is welcoming and kind-hearted.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE COLLEGE-AGE STUDENTS INTERESTED IN GOING TO LAW SCHOOL?

I joke and say I would never suggest anyone to attend law school, but that is because you must be prepared to put in the work. I would not change my decision for the world. If you are looking to attend law school, I would suggest to fill up your schedule with clubs, school, homework. Learn to abide by a strict schedule. The workload will be tough your first year, but the second year is much easier. Take a refresher English course if you haven't taken one within the last three semesters of graduation. Also, learn to network. It is helpful in a close knit community, and can be the difference between getting a job or not. Your undergraduate time is the perfect time to practice all this, and the transition to law school will be easier if you do practice.

A SHINING EXAMPLE

WHY I GIVE

WILLIAMS '43 GIFT TO ENHANCE STUDENT SPIRITUAL LIFE

More than 70 years after attending Chapel services as a student at University of the Ozarks, the Rev. Bruce Williams is giving back to the spiritual heart of the campus.

Bruce, a 1943 graduate of Ozarks, and his wife, the Rev. Tracy Julian Williams, have recently established the Chapel Programming Endowment to "provide support to Chapel programming and spiritual life in keeping with the traditions of the Presbyterian Church (USA)."

Tracy is the former pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Bay City, Texas, and Bruce served in the U.S. Navy for 33 years, 22 as a chaplain, before retiring as a commander in 1975. He later served as a prison chaplain in Texas.

The Williamses said their gift is intended to help the University's ministerial program in the Munger-Wilson Chapel in "reaching out to the campus community with the message of Christianity—hospitality, inclusion, and welcoming of all faiths."

"This University and this Chapel set me on my way to a career in the ministry and we felt it was the right time to help current students have that same kind of Christian experience," Bruce said. "Being a former Navy chaplain, we wanted to see a Chapel program that is modeled after the Navy's program, one that is welcoming to all faiths and religions, but where people can still hold onto their individual beliefs. We believe that is happening here at Ozarks and we wanted to help that to continue."

The Rev. Jeremy Wilhelmi, the University chaplain, said the endowment will allow more students to be reached through Christian programming.

"A gift like this lets the public know that this University not only cares about the academics but that we want to nurture the whole self," Wilhelmi said. "It also eliminates some of the barriers on our dreams and goals for spiritual life on campus. We can think bigger and be more creative on how students experience God. More generosity allows us to share more ways for our students to connect to God. That's important because we all connect differently."

Tracy said she hopes the gift helps enhance God's presence at Ozarks.

The Rev. Bruce Williams '43 (second from left) and his wife, the Rev. Tracy Julian Williams, have established the Chapel Programming Endowment to support programming for Munger-Wilson Memorial Chapel. Shown with the Williamses are University Chaplain Rev. Jeremy Wilhelmi and University President Richard Dunsworth.

"At some universities you really have to search for the campus ministry, and that should not be the case," she said. "God should be the center of our lives and this is our small way of helping to ensure that at Ozarks."

Bruce said the couple established the endowment so that others might contribute to it.

"We consider ourselves the starters of this endowment, not the authors," Bruce said. "We want others to contribute and grow this endowment so that we can reach more and more students and to show that God is at work in our midst." Bruce also emphasized that supporters of the University do not have to be wealthy.

"My first wife, Virginia, and I decided early on that we would give something to Ozarks each year," Williams said. "In the beginning it wasn't much. In fact, some of the high school students at the church where I was preaching were making more money than I was. There was not much that we could give, but we started out giving what we could."

"I've been a nickel and dimer my entire life, and those nickels and dimes have added up. It just goes to show that every gift counts and that it's not about the amount but the consistency."

TEACHING

at the Top of the World

Barrow has been one of the teaching stops for 1984 Ozarks graduate Perry Duncan, who has taught throughout the Alaskan Bush for the past 15 years.

PERRY DUNCAN '84 never knows what new challenges might await him when he shows up for work each morning at his job as a school administrator in the tiny remote Alaskan village of Emmonak. Like in late November when he learned that the village sewage system had caught fire and knocked out sewer service for the entire community.

> "In Alaska you see every day the difference you are making in students' lives."
>
> Perry Duncan '84

With no backup pumps or storage tanks in the area and replacement parts a world away in the Lower 48, people in the village had to restrict use of water that goes down drains — toilets, showers, laundry, dish washing — for three weeks. The hardships caused by the crisis were taken in stride by the hardy, inconvenience-tested villagers as well as by the transplanted Arkansan who helped the school weather the crisis as the assistant principal at the Emmonak school.

"I've learned a long time ago that as a teacher and administrator in Bush Alaska that I get to wear many hats, including parent, landlord, coach, taxi driver and counselor," Duncan said. "I've now added disaster coordinator to the growing list. The entire village was on restricted water use until they were able to get new pumps installed. All replacement parts and pumps had to come from the Lower 48, and then be flown into the village with contractors who could then install the equipment. We ended up missing about a week of school. It's easy for most people to take services like clean water and sewer for granted, but not here. We are grateful for all of our modern essentials."

For the past 15 years, Duncan has worked as a teacher, coach and administrator in the Alaskan Bush, defined as a region in the state that is not connected to a road network or to the state's ferry system. He currently is serving as assistant principal in Emmonak, a Yup'ik Eskimo fishing village of about 800 year-round residents that sits in a marshy region on the Yukon River in Western Alaska, about 10 miles from the Bering Sea. The Emmonak school has an enrollment of 215 students in kindergarten through 12th grades. He has also taught in the remote Alaskan villages of Atqasuk, Barrow and Hooper Bay.

It's been quite a journey for Duncan, who grew up in Van Buren, Ark., and attended U of O, where his parents, Jerry and Dorothy (Boyd), had graduated in 1958. After taking a variety of classes at Ozarks, Duncan finally settled on a degree in broadcast journalism and public administration before returning to earn a secondary education certification in the mid-1980s.

He spent the next 12 years teaching social studies in Alma (Ark.) High School while also building on his goal to be as well-rounded as possible, something he learned to appreciate during his time at U of O.

"At Ozarks I enjoyed taking different classes that sounded interesting and I discovered that I loved learning new things," he said. "During the time I was teaching at Alma I ended up taking even more classes and working part-time jobs for the experience. Building a broad background and trying to be well-rounded was my goal. I took everything from small engines classes to scuba lessons. I participated in local theater and took EMT classes, worked as a clerk at a gas station and got my CDL and did a little truck driving. All of this was motivated from my time at Ozarks. I became a lifelong learner."

In 2001, Duncan was ready to set out on a new adventure.

"I just felt the need for a challenge, some place where I could make a difference; some place where I could leave a mark in this life," Duncan said. "I just needed a new place to start again. I heard about a job fair in Oklahoma City for teachers in Alaska and I heard the pay was good, and it seemed like the farthest I could get from where I was and still be in the U.S. I was offered a position in a small village in northern Alaska. So I accepted the job and started the journey north."

He was hired as a generalist teacher, meaning he would have to teach nearly every subject. He relied on his liberal arts education at Ozarks to help him pass several Praxis exams to continue to teach in Alaska.

His first teaching job in the Bush was in the tiny Inupiat Eskimo village of Atqasuk, population 350. While he discovered that a lot of the basic teaching principles for teaching above the Arctic Circle were the same as in Arkansas, there were some notable differences.

"The differences are the class sizes, the cultural nuances, the amount of light or lack of light that you have in a day, all those things make it a little more challenging," Duncan said. "My students were Inupiat Eskimo and several of them had never seen a tree, many had only traveled to Barrow since they were born, and most had never seen a cow. Yet, they were expected to take the same standardized tests and show the same progress as any other student in the US. In fact, when we took our middle school students to Anchorage one of the educational functions of that trip was to take the kids to a park where they could actually climb a tree, or to a farm where they could see a horse or a cow. Needless to say, it was a challenge."

Duncan also quickly realized that he had a more significant impact on his students than he did in the Lower 48.

"Here you are much more of a parent figure in the lives of your students than just a teacher," he said. "I know that I can make more of an impact on the lives of the young people here just because of the amount of time and attention I can give my students. As a teacher and administrator, I get closer to the parents too, they know me and trust me. After you spend seven winters in the same village with the locals, we really do know each other, and that's a good thing. I definitely feel more like I am part of the community here than when I taught back in Arkansas."

> I got into **EDUCATION** to make a **DIFFERENCE**. I wanted to help **TOUCH** and **SHAPE** the lives of young adults in a **POSITIVE** way.
>
> Perry Duncan '84

Duncan typically had between 6 to 14 students in classes that were broken down into junior high and high school students. He would be expected to teach a class of 7th, 8th, and 9th graders all at once as well as a class of 10th, 11th and 12th graders. He taught all of the basic subjects—reading, writing, mathematics, social studies and science—as well as shop, home economics, physical education and more. He and two other teachers handled all 35 of the secondary students and subjects.

Duncan's impact on his students touched several levels, including their accent, as he discovered one morning as he was preparing for a physical education class.

"The kids were out in the gym doing exercises getting warmed up, and I started listening to them count," he said. "They were saying, 'wooon,' 'toooo,' 'threeee,' 'fore.' They were counting with a southern accent. Now, I can't take full credit for this phenomenon. Over the years we had several southerners teaching in this school. But the point is when you live this close to kids you really become a part of their lives."

After teaching seven years in Atqasuk, he taught five years in Barrow before moving to Anchorage with his wife, Angel, and their two young children, Seth and Kaylee. He served as a substitute teacher for two years in Anchorage before returning to the Bush in 2015 as a middle school social studies teacher in Hooper Bay. He stayed in the Lower Yukon School District in 2016, moving to Emmonak as an administrator, an opportunity he received after earning a master's degree in education administration.

His wife of 12 years and two children have remained in Anchorage the past two years. During the school year he sees them about once every two months when he catches a flight to Anchorage, weather-permitting.

"The hardest part of this job is definitely the separation from my family," Duncan said. "Angel spent the first six years we were married living in the bush with me. Our children started pre-K and elementary school out on the tundra. But the opportunities for things like Cub Scouts, ballet, gymnastics, and choir are better in Anchorage, so we decided this was the best option."

Outside of the school, Duncan has also found numerous challenges with living in rural Alaska, such as temperatures that have gotten as low as minus-54 degrees, $12 for a gallon of milk and months of no sunshine.

"People ask me how I can stand the cold, and I have to say that the cold isn't so bad once you get acclimated," he said. "I have been out in wind chill temperatures that were pretty brutal but with the right gear and clothing it's not bad. I tell people that it's almost like what I imagine living in space is like. We have small airlocks in our houses, we 'suit up' to go outside, the houses are all built on pilings that look like landing gear, and it's dark most of the time."

Shopping for food takes a little strategy.

"A can of soup that might be around $1 in the Lower 48 would be closer to $2.50 here," he said. "The trick here is to wait until the product reaches its expiration or 'best by' date and wait for it to go on sale for half price. In the winter, everything is flown in to the village, even the eggs, so we are thankful for what we can get. As far as fresh fruit and vegetables, let's just say I have seen cantaloupe, on sale, for $35 each in February and March and people were happy to have them. What most people do is order or buy in bulk in Anchorage and ship all supplies to themselves. I remember the first year I was in Alaska and I bought my groceries and spent just over $1,000 for my first order. I had to plan meals and figure out what I would need for the next six months and then place an order with a catalog grocery company. I was in shock, at first, for spending so much money. But then I came to realize that I wouldn't need to spend anything for the next six months on food and I began to save money this way. I learned how to buy in bulk and it's really hard for me to go to the store now and just buy only one item at a time."

Despite the hardships and inconveniences, Duncan believes he's exactly where he was meant to be.

"I got into education to make a difference," he said. "I wanted to help touch and shape the lives of young adults in a positive way. But, how do you really know that you have made a difference in a person's life as a teacher? Occasionally, a student will drop by many years after their classroom days and say how much you meant to them. As a secondary teacher, we might have a student for 45 minutes a day for a semester and then never see them again. But when you teach in the Bush in Alaska, you live with your students for nine long months at a time. You see them every day and teach them every day. You coach them in sports after school, you take them on trips outside of school, you help them raise money to attend conferences, you become very much like a parent instead of a teacher for them."

"In Alaska you see every day the difference you are making in students' lives."

Duncan credited Ozarks professors such as Gilbert Parks, Jane Cater, Caroline Whitson, Chuck Larson, Doc Farrell, Jerry Wagoner, Randy Hilton and Robert Hilton for paving the way to a successful career.

"They all helped me to see what a difference personal effort can make," Duncan said. "Who could have predicted the world we live in today back in 1984 and known what it would take to succeed? But with the right motivation and preparation these instructors helped give us the tools we would need to adapt and succeed in any situation."

EAGLESATHLETICS

Dr. Scully appointed faculty athletic rep

Dr. Mark Scully, assistant professor of political science at U of O, has been appointed the university's new faculty athletics representative (FAR).

Scully, who has taught at Ozarks since 2014, was appointed to the three-year term by U of O President Richard Dunsworth in January.

"Dr. Scully is superbly qualified to serve as the faculty athletics representative," Dunsworth said. "He is an exceptional scholar and understands the institutional aspects and culture of a university that competes on the NCAA Division III level. He is deeply committed to student-athlete welfare, academic integrity and the balance between the university's educational mission and athletics."

Scully will serve as a liaison between the institution and the athletics program as well as the university's faculty representative to the NCAA and the American Southwest Conference. The fundamental responsibilities of the FAR are to evaluate and ensure the academic integrity of the intercollegiate athletics program, to facilitate institutional control of athletics, and to enhance the student-athlete experience.

"U of O has so many talented student-athletes and dedicated coaches that it is my honor to serve as the new faculty athletics representative," Scully said. "I hope to contribute to the very impressive accomplishments of the Eagles' athletics staff in developing our students as both scholars and athletes. I am grateful for any opportunity I have to advocate for our student-athletes, and to continue to work with them to live up to our proud tradition of academic excellence."

Scully earned his undergraduate degree at St. John's College in New Mexico and a Ph.D. from Baylor University.

He succeeds Stacy Key, dean of the mathematics and sciences division, who served as the university's faculty athletics representative since 2011.

"I thank Dean Key for his dedication and leadership over the past six years," Dunsworth said. "Ozarks was fortunate to have him serve as FAR and we greatly appreciated his support of our coaches and student-athletes over the years."

Koy chosen for league immersion program

Women's soccer player Chance Koy was one of two American Southwest Conference student-athletes who were selected for the 2017 NCAA Division III Student Immersion Program, held in January in conjunction with the NCAA Convention.

A sophomore pre-med major from Haltom City, Texas, Koy joined 40 other ethnic minority students in the Student Immersion Program class. She was the first Ozarks' student-athlete and among the first ASC athletes to attend the second-year program. The 42 program participants were selected from the pool of applicants from across the Division III membership. Participants have an opportunity to learn from an identified mentor, participate in a DiSC assessment and goal setting, and engage with the Division III Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) while also enjoying all of the Convention programming.

Men's soccer team earns postseason spot

Under first-year coach Aaron Brueckner, the 2016 men's soccer team advanced to the American Southwest Conference Championship Tournament for the 14th time in the program's history.

The Eagles finished the regular season with a 10-5-3 overall record and a 4-4-2 finish in the ASC, good for fifth place. They fell in the first round, 3-0, to Concordia-Texas.

Seven members of the men's team earned all-conference honors by the league office, led by senior midfielder Thomas Mills, who was selected to the All-ASC first team.

Junior forward Bryce Young earned a spot on the All-ASC second team, while junior defender Alex Ross and sophomore defender Matt Samaniego were named to the All-ASC third team. Senior midfielder Stewart Mena, junior midfielder Johnson Cijulus and junior goalkeeper Luis Mena each earned honorable mention All-ASC honors.

Hemphill '16 tabbed as shooting sports coach

Caleb Hemphill, a 2016 Ozarks graduate, was named in October as the new head coach of the University's men's and women's shooting sports program.

A native of Van, Texas, Hemphill was a standout shooter for the program for the past four years. In 2016, he tied for third in American Trap (Class C) at the Association of College Unions International Collegiate National Tournament in San Antonio. He also helped the team to three first-place finishes at the Arkansas State Collegiate Shoot.

"He has a passion for the program and appreciates how the University develops student-athletes," said Athletics Director Jimmy Clark. "He will be here full-time. We've had impressive success in this program, and I believe Caleb will continue the strong tradition."

Hemphill replaces Mike Qualls, who stepped down from the position in October to pursue other opportunities.

"It is a blessing to be able to have the job here," said Hemphill. "We've had two great coaches create a solid foundation for the program, and I plan to build upon that success. This program has produced numerous medals and trophies. I want to continue to add to that. I am thankful the University supports and recognizes the value of the shooting sports program."

Richardson shatters men's assist record

With still another season to play, Jace Richardson has become the men's basketball program's all-time assist leader. The 6-foot junior guard from Fort Smith, Ark., finished the 2016-17 season with 418 career assists, breaking the previous mark of 386 held by Isaiah Boxell from 2009-13. Boxell broke the mark of 359 held by Marcus Hampton from 1988 to 1992.

Richardson broke the record on Jan. 30 at Texas Dallas.

HITMAN

Eagles senior outfielder Andrew Beck enters his final season this spring as one of the most accomplished hitters in the program's history. The Conway, Ark., native has compiled some impressive offensive numbers going into his senior season:

.429
Batting average during the 2016 season, the second-highest season average in program history behind Cory Briggs (.467) in 2008.

51
Number of hits needed to break the program's career mark of 200 set by Cory Briggs from 2007 to 2010.

32
Number of career doubles by Beck, 11 short of the program record of 42 set by David Smith in 2006-09.

.369
Career average (150-406) for Beck, the third-highest in school history behind John Glenn '08 (.382) and Shawn Adams '02 (.374)

22
Games in which Beck got consecutive hits during the 2016 season. He hit .494 during that stretch before suffering a season-ending injury.

WRESTLING Melting Pot

In just its third season of existence, the University of the Ozarks wrestling program is thriving, thanks to an extensive and wide-spread recruiting philosophy that reaches across the country. The wrestling program has student-athletes from 14 different states (shaded on map), stretching from New Jersey to Florida to Nevada. Head Coach LeRoy Gardner said of his recruiting philosophy, “Good wrestlers and good student-athletes are everywhere. There are more wrestlers out there than there are collegiate opportunities, so athletes want an opportunity to compete. There are wrestlers who are looking for the type of academic, athletic and social environment that we have here at Ozarks and it behooves me to find them, wherever they are.”

ADOLFO SOTOLONGO /// *Freshman, Miami, Florida*

Born and raised in a metro area of 5.5 million, Adolfo was discovered by Ozarks coaches through a recruiting website. After a few phone conversations and a visit from Coach Gardner, he knew he had found the coach he wanted to compete for. He and his parents made their first trip to the campus in August to enroll. “As we were getting closer to Clarksville my family and I were joking around and wondering where all the buildings were. There was nothing but trees. When we got to Clarksville and saw the downtown area, we couldn’t believe how small it was. But I’ve come to love this place.”

JAMEER ANDERSON /// *Freshman, Minneapolis, Minnesota*

Jameer had plans to attempt to walk-on at a Division I program when his high school coach told him about a new program in Arkansas that was looking for wrestlers. After talking to the coaches at Ozarks, he decided to “grab life by the horns and go for an adventure.” Jameer admits that the distance away from family and the academic challenges of college have been difficult. “At first, I definitely missed my family and struggled academically,” he said. “But I’ve learned that can I rely on and trust my teammates and coaches to help me. Being this far away from home has definitely built character and made be a more mature person.”

ALEJANDRO ORDONEZ /// *Freshman, Las Vegas, Nevada*

Alejandro likes to joke that he moved from the “City That Never Sleeps” to the “City That Closes Down at 7 p.m.” when he left Las Vegas for Clarksville. Discovered by Ozarks coaches through a recruiting website, Alejandro was part of a high school graduating class of more than 800 students and said the only time he ever saw trees in Las Vegas was during the holidays when vendors would sell Christmas trees. “As we were driving to Clarksville and getting closer, I just started seeing more and more trees and I was in awe.” He has come to embrace his new home-away-from-home. “I love the hiking trails, the rivers and all of the outdoor opportunities here,” he said. “This place is so different from home and that’s what I love about it. Choosing Ozarks was one of the best decisions I ever made.”

NICHOLAS MCDANIEL /// *Freshman, Derby, Iowa*

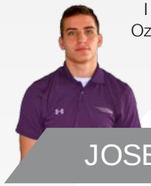
Nicholas grew up on a rural farm in the wrestling hotbed of southern Iowa. He first learned about Ozarks on a family vacation during his junior year in high school to Mount Nebo near Russellville, Ark., his first visit to the state. He liked the idea of being a part of a new program at Ozarks. “I wanted to help establish a program from the start and help set the foundation. That’s pretty exciting.”

MARSHALL BILLITER /// *Freshman, Hopkinsville, Kentucky*

Ozarks was the first college to contact Marshall about wrestling in college, something that stuck with him even after other schools began courting him. He made up his mind to attend Ozarks on the eight-hour drive with his parents to visit campus. “It just felt like the right place to be, even before I saw the campus,” he said. When he arrived on campus in August, he quickly forged a bond with his new teammates. “There were so many of us from different places that we just started calling each other by nicknames of our home states,” he said. “I’m not sure if most of my teammates still even know my name. To everyone on the team, I’m still ‘Kentucky.’”

COREY MUNIZ /// *Freshman, Romeoville, Illinois*

Growing up just outside of Chicago, Corey planned to give up wrestling and just attend a nearby college following high school. However after a year, he realized that he missed the sport. “I had talked to the Ozarks wrestling coach in high school and I remembered him being so nice, so I decided to contact Ozarks and see if they still wanted me,” he said. “When I visited Ozarks, everyone was so friendly and welcoming. I knew that even though it was so far from home, that it was the place for me.”



JOSEPH SCHENCK /// *Freshman, Perth Amboy, New Jersey*

Growing up in an oceanfront town just a bridge crossing away from New York City, Joseph was ready to see a different part of the country. He started doing some research and found out about Ozarks online. Without having visited the campus, he took a 32-hour bus trip to the University for the first time in August to enroll. “I was ready for an adventure and had no idea what to expect,” he said. “I found out that I love the weather here and it’s a beautiful area. However, the bugs they have here can be a little scary. We don’t have this many bugs back home.”

JONATHAN GONZALES /// *Sophomore, Austin, Texas*

Jonathan was wrestling at an Oklahoma junior college and looking to transfer when some of his teammates told him about Ozarks. “They had been here to wrestle and they told me how beautiful the campus was and how friendly everyone was,” he said. “I visited campus and it was everything they said it was and more. I’ve found that the slow, relaxed lifestyle here is perfect for me to focus on wrestling and academics.”

CLASSNOTES

Shane Ozment '91 is living in Denver where he is an executive managing director with ARA Newmark, the largest full-service investment advisory firm in the nation that focuses exclusively on the brokerage, financing and capital sourcing of multi-housing properties. He has consistently been recognized by the Denver Metropolitan Commercial Association of Realtors as a Metro Denver Top 10 Apartment Broker. After graduating from Ozarks, Ozment earned his master's degree in finance from the University of Colorado. He previously worked as a stock broker with Morgan Keegan, Inc., and as a financial advisor with Prudential Securities in Portland, Oregon.

Andrea (Frost) Price '99 was selected Military Base Spouse of the Year for the Joint Base McGuire Dix Lakehurst (N.J.) in February and is now in the running for the national Armed Forces Insurance Military Spouse of the Year award. Her husband, **Michael Price '99**, is a special agent at the United States Army Criminal Investigation Command and has served in the military for the past 17 years. Andrea serves as PTO president of their son's school on base, volunteers with the Red Cross Service, and is the parliamentarian for the Joint Base Spouses' Club. The Prices have two children.

Joel Ostendorf '92 graduated from the Arkansas Law Enforcement Academy in December with his son, Corey. They are believed to be the first father-son team to graduate from the academy together. Joel is a deputy with the Johnson County Sheriff's Office in Clarksville.

Carl Minden '94 was promoted to major in the Pulaski (Ark.) County Sheriff's Office in December. Minden has served with the sheriff's office since 1998.

Samantha (Snyder) Carpenter '97 is a journalism instructor for Virtual Arkansas, which is the Arkansas Department of Education's new distance learning entity. Samantha earned a master's degree in communication from the University of Arkansas in 2002. She lives in Conway, Ark., with her husband, Jeff, and their three children.

Jason Price '97 is an audiovisual engineer and Project Manager at Wachter, Inc., of Lowell, Ark. He currently supports the WAVE (Wachter Audio Video Engineering) team with design, installation and the commissioning of highly controlled AV systems. He has worked for Wachter since 2012.

Monica (Cogan) Frizzell '02 joined U of O in February as assistant registrar. She previously worked in the registrar's office from 2000 to 2014. She and her husband, Jeff, have one daughter, Abby, and they live in Clarksville.

Lucienne (Rodriguez) Byramji '04 and her husband, Stefan, welcomed their first child, a baby boy named Alan Byramji Rodríguez, to the family on Feb. 6, 2017. The Byramjis live in Managua, Nicaragua.

Liza Talley '04 recently accepted a position as an emergency room RN at CHI St. Luke's Health in Houston, Texas. She previously served as an emergency room RN at Memorial Hermann Health System. Talley earned a B.S. in nursing from the University of Texas at Galveston in 2011.

Juan Carlos "J.C." Gabriel '05 is teaching special education at the Van Buren (Ark.) Freshman Academy.

Xiao Fei "Sophie" Song '05 is working as a market researcher in Oxford, England. Song recently completed a master's degree in development economics at the University of Manchester and plans to move to Switzerland to work in international development.

Laura Conejo '06 and her husband welcomed a new daughter, Lucia Jimenez, to the family on Dec. 16, 2016. They in live Heredia, Costa Rica, where Laura is the senior human resources generalist for Experian.

Robert Mummey '08 and his wife, Tiffany, welcomed a new son, Gentry Everett, to the family on Dec. 16, 2016. He has one brother, Brantley. The Mummeys live in Lamar, Ark.

Continued on Page 44

Mike White '98 was selected the 2016 Farm Bureau Insurance Class 2A Football Coach of the Year in Arkansas in December after leading Mount Ida to the Class 2A state championship earlier that month. White also led the Lions to the 2007 state championship. He and his wife, Shirell, have two sons, Cade and Jackson.

Scharla Paryzek '12 was named the area director of the Boys and Girls Club of Lawrence (Kan.) Hillcrest and Sunset Hill sites in 2016. In November she was named the organization's monthly "Life-saver Award" for her work with children. Paryzek completed a master's degree in history and a graduate certificate in Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies from the University of Kansas in 2014.

Honorary Lifetime Trustee

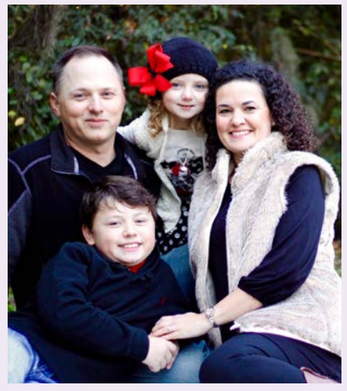
The Rev. Dr. William Rail '52, shown with his wife **Maxine '52**, was elected to the status of honorary lifetime trustee by the University of the Ozarks Board of Trustees in October for his "long and dedicated service to Ozarks and to its board." The Rails live in Little Rock, Ark.

Three alumni returned to campus for Homecoming in October to participate in the "More Than a Paycheck: Professions with a Purpose Panel." The panel included **Julie Parr '01**, a multi-media journalist for TV station KTBS in Shreveport, La.; **Fidel Samour '08** (right), director of community clinical programs for Arkansas Children's Hospital in Little Rock; and **B.J. Greene '04**, dean of students and head baseball coach at Smackover (Ark.) High School.

Catching Up With ...

Chris '97 and Carrie (Shoemate) '00 Bradke

As a military family for the past 17 years, **Chris Bradke '97** and his wife, **Carrie (Shoemate) Bradke '00**, have lived in Kansas, Missouri, Maryland, Tennessee, Arizona, Hawaii, California and their present home in Georgia. A major in the U.S. Army, Chris is currently assigned to duties with the United Nations in Liberia, Africa, his fifth overseas operational assignment. He previously served in Afghanistan, Iraq and Thailand. As an operations officer and strategic analyst, Chris advises the special representative of the United Nations Secretary General. Chris has earned numerous medals and commendations from the U.S. Army during his service, including two Bronze Star Medals, the Purple Heart, the Department of Defense Meritorious Service Medal, five Army Commendation Medals, Army Achievement Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Campaign Star, Iraq Campaign Medal with four Campaign Stars, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Combat Action Badge and Air Assault Badge. He earned a master's of arts degree in business and organizational security management from Webster University with a 4.0 GPA and is a member of the Delta Mu Delta honor society.



Carrie is currently a training and curriculum specialist for the Department of Defense, Child and Youth Services. She has worked for the DOD for 14 years, as both a director and trainer. She provides training and curriculum support for preschool teachers working with military families. Carrie is also a member of the Military Child Education Coalition, which provides education support to communities working with military children. In 2011, she was asked to participate in a round table discussion with First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden to help initiate the program Joining Forces, which emphasizes working with communities outside the military gates. This program opened the door to the Bradke family taking several trips to the White House.

Married in 2000, the Bradkes have two children, Aydn, 12, and Addyson, 6.

Terri Thomas '12 is working on a master's degree in higher education administration at Florida State University and serving as a graduate assistant at the Center for Leadership and Social Change at the university.

Stephen Adams '13 and Elodie Adams '13 welcomed a son, Illya, to the family on Jan. 1, 2017. The family lives in Clarksville, where Stephen is a systems administrator for the U of O information technology services department.

Colby Woolverton '12 and his wife, Bethany, welcomed a son, Riley, to the family on Aug. 28, 2016. The Woolvertons live in Little Rock and Colby is a teacher and coach at Cabot High School.

Fatima Aguero '13 is living in Nicaragua where she works as an operations manager for Marin Saravia & Cia. She was recently accepted into the MBA program at Arizona State University with a Forward Focus MBA Scholarship with Forté Fellowship Distinction. She plans to pursue a career in supply chain management.

Libby Nepivoda '16 is teaching high school oral communication and literacy and serving as a volunteer basketball coach at Junction City (Ark.) High School.

Br. Basil Taylor '16, O.S.B., made his solemn profession of vows as a monk of Subiaco Academy in Subiaco, Ark., during a special ceremony in February.

Austin Cogan '19 and his wife, Lorin, of Clarksville welcomed a new baby girl, Georgia Helen-Mae, to the family on Nov. 20, 2016.

The Integration of Athletics in Arkansas

A large audience turned out in November for the Walton Arts & Ideas Series presentation of "The Integration of Athletics in Arkansas," featuring the 1963-64 Ozarks men's basketball team. In 1963, Ozarks became the first predominately white college in the state to integrate its athletics program when Sylvester Benson joined the basketball team. The program panel included moderator Rex Nelson, Sylvester Benson '67, Ron Gammill '65, Bill Wyatt '66, Joe Bagwell '64 and Richard Franks '65.

Several alumni returned to campus for "The Integration of Athletics in Arkansas" event, including (from left) **Sylvester Benson '67, Marie (Brown) McNeal '70, Kathy (Shiras) Hickey '70, Irene Gillespie '70, Margaret Cheek '71, Patsy Benson '67 and James McNeal '65**.

Among the former men's basketball players who attended the event were (from left) **Ron Gammill '65, Joe Hickey '69, Richard Franks '65, Sylvester Benson '67, Bob Chance '69, Jim Cheek '68, Bill Wyatt 66 and Joe Bagwell '64.**

Nick Brill '14 and his wife, **Jordyn (Ferrell) Brill '14**, hold up the Class 6A Arkansas State Football Championship trophy in December. Nick served as an assistant coach for the state champion Russellville (Ark.) Cyclones. Jordyn recently earned her master's degree in occupational therapy and works for an OT center that serves the Clarksville School District.

A group of alumni who were involved in the music program at Ozarks held an informal reunion in Rogers, Ark. in the fall. Those attending included, (from left) **Marilyn (Horn) Lee '63** of Bella Vista, Ark.; **Nell (Cox) Griffin '55** of Fayetteville, Ark.; **Roiselle (Green) Grim '53** of Rogers; and **Annette (Lee) Zehring '63** of Bentonville, Ark. Lee is a retired teacher who still plays the organ for her church, Griffin is a retired music teacher, Grim is a retired organist and piano teacher and Zehring is an organist and voice teacher. Zehring recounted the time when, as a student at Ozarks, the music department sent out an announcement asking that anyone who knew how to play the piano to report to the office. Zehring was the only person to respond and that's how she became the accompanist for performances that year.

End of an Era

December marked the end of a 26-year era when Bobby Teeter's Drug Store closed in downtown Clarksville.

Teeter, a 1963 Ozarks graduate, had worked at the store since 1967 when it was owned by another Ozarks graduate, Dr. Luther "Creepy" Hodge '51, who died in 2000. Teeter bought the store from Hodge on Dec. 25, 1980, marking the beginning of a downtown staple in the community.

Teeter decided late last year to retire and in December he moved to Rogers, Ark., to be close to his two daughters who live in Northwest Arkansas. Angela, a 2010 Ozarks graduate, works for the Crystal Bridges Museum and Deanah is an executive for Wal-Mart.

"It's been an incredible ride and I wouldn't trade it for anything," Teeter said. "I had a wonderful career in Clarksville because I loved what I was doing and I loved serving the people of the community. I have some great friends in Clarksville that I hated to leave but I couldn't pass up an opportunity to be closer to my daughters. It was time."

Dr. Bobby Teeter in 1988 (right photo) and with daughters Angela and Deanah in 2016 (above photo).

Teeter was raised in Clarksville, where his father owned and operated The College Inn diner in downtown. He was offered a scholarship to play football and run track at Ozarks, an opportunity he said changed his life.

"I owe everything to Ozarks and the education I received there," he said. "I would not have had the career I had without Ozarks. It prepared me for pharmacy school and it prepared me to run my own business. I was blessed to be just down the street from it for all these years."

2016 HOMECOMING

'68 HAROLD BALDWIN

Harold Baldwin '68 as a quarterback on the Ozarks football team in 1965 (left) and with his wife, Willa, and their three grandchildren in Somerset, N.J.

Harold Baldwin, a 1968 Ozarks graduate, said the key to a fulfilling 50-year career as a chemist and environmental engineer can be traced back to his undergraduate days at Ozarks.

"Looking back, Ozarks definitely prepared me for the career challenges and opportunities I would have," Baldwin said. "Ozarks taught me how to research, how to find the answers and how to make a difference."

Baldwin and his wife, Willa, live in Somerset, N.J., where he is semi-retired as an environmental consultant and senior project manager for a leading environmental company. He's also an in-house consultant for one of the largest communication technology companies in the world.

After graduating from Ozarks, Baldwin put his chemistry degree to use, working for a number of companies, including CPC International, Williams Pipe Line and Colgate Palmolive, Inc., before gaining his first management position as a lab services supervisor for M&M Mars. He would eventually move on to do environmental consulting and emergency management work for several companies, including NYNEX/Bell Atlantic, and Verizon.

Baldwin said one of the most memorable periods of his career was working at Ground Zero following the 9-11 terrorists attacks in New York City. He headed up a shift at an environmental command station for a nearby global communications building for six months.

"My role was to coordinate and manage the abatement and cleanup process to make the building safe and secure for the technicians and network engineers," Baldwin said. "To work in a management capacity at Ground Zero to help ensure the safety of residents and restoration of historical buildings was one of the most humbling and fulfilling times of my career. This effort helped to get the servers to Wall Street up and running in minimum time."

At Ozarks, Baldwin helped tear down racial barriers by becoming one of the first Africa-Americans to play football at Ozarks from 1964-65, before the college dropped the sport in 1966.

"Our dean of students, James Roberts, recruited me to play football and I remember he took me to the athletic field and told Coach [Lonnie] Qualls to suit me up for football," Baldwin recalled. "He said, 'Let's see what he's got.' Well, Dean Roberts kind of knew what I had because I had just graduated from Horace Mann High School in Little Rock. I was playing for a team that was state champions for three years in a row, undefeated in 1963. But, I still had to prove myself. A true athlete thrives and learns from the competition. There were some challenges I had to overcome, but it made me a better person and a better athlete."

> *"Ozarks taught me ... how to make a difference."*
>
> Harold Baldwin

As a fast, strong-armed quarterback, Baldwin was one of the first African-Americans to play the position at a Southern college.

"I was a quarterback who was ahead of his time," Baldwin said. "I was quick with a strong arm. You can see a reflection of me in professional football today with quarterbacks like Michael Vick, Russell Wilson, Cam Newton and Dak Prescott. I'm not saying I was as good as those guys, but there is a similarity."

Baldwin, who has two adult daughters and three grandchildren, said he is still thankful for the support he received at Ozarks.

"I had a lot of great teammates, coaches, students and faculty that stood beside me and supported me," he said. "I'm proud that I was one of the first African-American students at Ozarks and that I helped show that I was no different than the white students. At first some of the students stared at us like we were from another planet, but we just ignored it and eventually it disappeared. I'm glad that I was able to add to a more diverse and multi-cultural atmosphere and pave the way for other black students."

Baldwin said one moment that stands out from his time as a student was when he and other Ozarks students were asked to help fight a nearby forest fire.

"The fire was approximately 30 miles away and federal government officials came on campus and asked for volunteers to help fight and contain the fire," Baldwin said, "Most of the male students were willing and able to help. When it was all done, we all had war stories to tell. It was quite an experience."

In Memoriam

Pat Walker and Ed Dell Wortz

The University mourned the passing of two dear friends and long-time supporters in the fall — Pat Walker of Springdale, Ark., and Ed Dell Wortz of Fort Smith, Ark. Walker died on Sept. 2, 2016, at the age of 97 and Wortz died on Nov. 4, 2016 at the age of 93.

"Pat Walker and Ed Dell Wortz have graced Ozarks and the students we serve in ways beyond measure," said Steve Edmisten, special assistant to the president. "When it came to helping people achieve their educational dreams, they shared a tremendous bias for positive action and were wonderfully effective leaders. We miss them tremendously, but are heartened every day when we witness their spirits continuing to uplift our and in beautiful ways."

Walker and her late husband, Willard, were already known for their philanthropy in Arkansas when they created the Willard and Pat Walker Charitable Foundation in 1986. The foundation provides support for education, health care and the arts and humanities throughout the region. U of O received numerous gifts from the Walkers and their foundation, including a $7 million gift for Walker Hall, which houses the University's teacher education and communication programs. Walker Hall was dedicated in October of 2002. In 2007, the University renamed its education program the Pat Walker Teacher Education Program to honor the Northwest Arkansas philanthropist. She was a member of the Arkansas Women's Hall of Fame.

Wortz served five different terms on the University's Board of Trustees and was named an honorary lifetime trustee in 2006. She was a staunch supporter of the Annual Scholarship Fund and served as a tireless leader on multiple fund-raising initiatives for the University, including providing and raising funds for Cary-Wortz Hall in 2000 in honor of her father, C.H. Wortz. She was granted an honorary doctor of humanities degree from Ozarks in 2002. She was a retired broker for Merrill Lynch.

Pat Walker

Ed Dell Wortz

Dylan Giles Hill '15

Oct. 25, 1992 — Oct. 28, 2016

In October, the University community mourned the loss of recent graduate Dylan Giles Hill of Idabel, Okla.,who died on Oct, 28, 2016, at the age of 24. A memorial service was held on campus for family and friends on Oct. 30. Hill graduated from U of O in December 2015 with a degree in business management and administration and was a member of the shooting sports team. After graduation, he became an executive director with the family business, SETCO, where he started as a young teenager working and learning the business from the bottom up. Hill's love of hunting, fishing, flying and many adventures that took him across the world was surpassed only by his love of family and friends, many of whom joined him on these unforgettable adventures. He was remembered by family and friends as someone with a kind manner and generous heart, mind and spirit, who embraced life and overcame obstacles by never giving up or stopping short of reaching his goals.

In Memoriam

MARY K. (PORTER) RAGON JOHNSON '37 of Clarksville, died Oct. 27, 2016, at the age of 100. She was an active member of First Presbyterian in Clarksville and was a member of PEO.

LORRAINE (JOHNSON) McKEE '38 of Richmond, Va., died Oct. 19, 2016, at the age of 100.

ROBERT L. "BOB" HARRISON '50 of Rogers, Ark., died Nov. 10, 2016, at the age of 90. A U.S. Army veteran, he served 40 years as an insurance agent with American National Insurance .

JOHN JACKSON "JACK" PHILLIPS JR. '50 of Clarksville, died Jan. 13, 2017, at the age of 90. He was a U.S. Navy veteran and a retired chemical engineer from Trunkline Gas Co. in Houston, Texas. He was a former member of the U of O Board of Trustees and was selected by the Alumni Association as the Alumni Merit Award recipient in 2007 and the Alumni Legacy recipient in 2015.

DR. GEORGE FRANKLIN BARNES '51 of Locust Grove, Va., died Sept. 23, 2016. He was a retired pharmacist and served in the U.S. Army as a medic during the Korean War.

ANNE (SMITH) ROBERTS '53 of Jonesboro, Ark., died Feb. 20, 2016, at the age of 84. She was a former teacher and owner of Four Seasons Garden Center in Jonesboro.

FRANK PICKLE '55 of Atkins, Ark., died Aug. 25, 2016, at the age of 83. He was a retired teacher, coach and administrator. In 2006 he was chosen citizen of the year by People for a Better Atkins.

SANDRA JEAN ELIZABETH PHIFFER '56 of Tyler, Texas, died Dec. 12, 2016, at the age of 80. She worked for various technical companies with government contracts, including the Super Conducting Supercollider. Sandra retired from Boeing.

MARTHA LOU BAGLEY '57 of St. Petersburg, Fla., died Nov. 9, 2016, at the age of 81. She was a long-time teacher and educator.

ANNA CHRISTINE DORMAN '58 of Pagosa Springs, Col., died Sept. 14, 2016, at the age of 80. She was a retired physical education teacher and librarian in Gruver, Texas, and was preceded in death by her husband of 51 years, James Carl Dorman '57.

THORPE HAMILTON SMITH JR. '58 of Clarksville, died Dec. 23, 2016, at the age of 80. He was retired from the Arkansas Department of Emergency Services and was a reservist in the U.S. Air Force.

WAYMON LEE LEWELLEN '58 of Springfield, Mo., died Dec. 10, 2016, at the age of 81. He was a retired coach at Rogers (Ark.) High School and salesman for Balfour Company.

WILLIAM "BILL" J. SKARDA '58 of Carlisle, Ark., died Jan. 14, 2017, at the age of 79. He was a business manager for 37 years for Lone Pine Enterprises and Carl Garrich.

Phillips

Johnson

Harrison

GEN. RICHARD HOMER THOMPSON '59 of Fairfax, Va., died Feb. 21, 2016, at the age of 90. He was a veteran of World War II, Korea and Vietnam. He was selected by the Alumni Association for the Achievement Award in 1985. He was awarded both the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit and the Bronze Star.

DONALD PAUL PANNELL '68 of Clarksville, died Dec. 18, 2016, at the age of 77. He was a U.S. Marine Corps veteran and a retired teacher and coach.

SUSAN (SWINDLE) EHEMANN '73 of Atkins, Ark., died July 4, 2016, at the age of 65. She was a retired bookkeeper.

HUGH CLAY JOHNSON '74 of Little Rock, Ark., died Dec. 14, 2016, at the age of 64. He was a retired medical and computer technician for St. Vincent Hospital and the Arkansas Pathology Association.

CHRISTOPHER "BO" MACK '76 of Fallsville, Ark., died March 5, 2016, at the age of 62. He was retired from the USDA Forest Service.

BETTY GEORGE '79 of Dardanelle, Ark., died Jan. 11, 2017, at the age of 87. She was a retired nurse and anesthesiologist.

CYNTHIA ROSEALIE (WALKER) BREECE '93 of Chattahoochee Hills, Ga., died Jan. 15, 2017, at the age of 46.

KENLEY BARHAM '06 of Van Buren, Ark., died Nov. 24, 2016, at the age of 32. He was a quality assurance technician at Gerdau North America in Fort Smith and was a member of Central Presbyterian Church in Fort Smith where he was a deacon, and an elder.

CAROLINE JEANNE "CAROL" MOSLEY '06 of Clarksville, died Sept. 26, 2016, at the age of 32. She worked in security at Allied Universal Services and was a site manager at River Valley Animal Foods.

JAMES R. "JIM" BELLATTI, a former member of the Board of Trustees, died on Dec. 13, 2016, at the age of 89. A former publisher and editor of the *Stillwater News Press*. He served on the board at U of O from 1981-86.

Memorials and Honoraria

May 16, 2016 through Dec. 30, 2016

MEMORIALS

Charles and Dorothy Angell
Cathy Angell and Ronna Biggs
Berte "Mali" Dahl '80
John Eugene Armstrong '59
John T. Armstrong Trust
Bettye Masterson Aydelott '55
Steve and Dorinda Edmisten
Bill Holder '52 and Jane Wilson Holder '55
Roy Horne '57
David King '54 and Patricia Hathaway King '81
Lonnie Qualls '55 and Levada Mathis Qualls '55
Martha Holden Bagley '57
Jerry Duncan '58 and Dorothy Boyd Duncan '58
Roy Horne '57
Lonnie Qualls '55 and Levada Mathis Qualls '55
Katherene Bagwell
Bagwell Foundation
Richard and Katherine Bagwell
Bagwell Foundation
Theodore "Taz" Beard '15
Cole Clementson '15
Huie Bird
Doris Bird
John E. Bock '49
W. C. Jetton
William Borland
Sheila Doss '80
E. Faye Ellison Castonguay '58
Ed Harrington '56 and Janet Graf Harrington '58
Paul Cogan
Bill and Kody Eakin
John Barnes Coleman
Sean and Jennifer Coleman
Anna Blackard Dorman '58
Jo Ann Dunn Choate '57 and Thomas Choate
Roy Horne '57
Jetta Martin
Liz Baskin Sheffer '58 and Eric Sheffer
Delores Blackard Wagoner '56 and Mitchell Wagoner
James Dorman '57
Jo Ann Dunn Choate '57 and Thomas Choate
Lewis and Rose Dunn
Hilda Turner
Relf Efurd '53
Martha Dollar Efurd '56
Fritz Ehren '53
William Shrigley, Jr. '69 and Mary Jo Shrigley
Elizabeth Eisenmayer '00
John Frost '89 and Julia Frost
Andrea Fancher '07
Taylor Emanuelson Rogers '08 and Nathan Rogers
Marge Figliulo
Deloitte Foundation
Anna Figliulo Dunker '87 and Curt Dunker
Maura Figliulo Howerton '80 and Bradley Howerton
Jim Forkner '54
Joyce Graf Forkner '57
Michael Zoller '77 and Janice Forkner Zoller '78
Mary Margaret Fortenberry
Daphne Ward
Joel Gibbons '57
Jo Ann Dunn Choate '57 and Thomas Choate
Roy Horne '57
Ann Davidson Goza '69
Angela Wheeler Spencer '98 and Shawn Spencer
Nancy Grant
Pete Grant
Sarah Carlin Graves '85
James and Karen Graves
Melvin Gullion '65
Cleta Gullion
Thorpe Hamilton '58
Gary Bradley '84 and Linda Frala Bradley '84
Bill Holder '52 and Jane Wilson Holder '55
Roy Horne '57
Gaye Strong Taylor '53
Robert Harrison '50
John Beckman '92 and Deniece Scott Beckman '76
Bill Holder '52 and Jane Wilson Holder '55
David Pridgin '71 and Reba Geels Pridgin '81
Gayle Remer Thiele
Virginia Hicks
Michael Shannon McBee '89 and Lori McBee
O. D. Hightower '49
W. C. Jetton
Dylan Hill '15
Terry and Leslie Adams, and George and Joan Adams
Bob and Kristi Albrecht
Alan Alpert
David and Gretchen Bachman
Bernd Bauermeister
Jurgen Bauermeister
Rick Beard - La Roca Range, Grandbury, TX
Win and Lynn Bell
Brian Bell '15
Maegan Bell '13
Bern Kotelko Inc., Vegreville, AB
Duane and Sharon Birdsong
Cathy Brumbalow
Randall and Wynema Burks
Jaime and Cindy Cannon and family
Lee and Kathryn Carson
Catholic Foundation
Richard Cobb
Adam and Brandy DeLee
Gary and Mary Dennington
Davis and Memorie Dickson
John Dozier
Jon Drake
Richard Drake
Richard and Holly Dunsworth
Robert and Beth Dyess
Steven Eckel and Ranger Steel, Houston, TX
Fidelity Charitable
Steven and Lynne Foote
Ed Foster
John and Melissa Foster
John Frost '89 and Julia Frost
Lane Gaddy
Marc, Sherry and Taylor Gargano
Andrew Good
Robert and Nancy Goolsby
Charles Gregg
Gil, Lizanne, and Jack Guthrie
Haas Machine Tools of Texas, Inc., Richardson, TX
Hall Estill Attorneys at Law, Tulsa, OK
Dennis, Nelda, and Whitney Hansen
Citation Jet Pilots Association, Deltona, FL
Heritage Mark Foundation
Kevin and Stephanie Hime
Jack and Tamra Hodge
Christopher Hoke
Robert Horowitz and Amy Levin
Lance and Patti Jeanes
Julian Construction, LLC, Broken Bow, OK
Matthew Kripke
Janis, Greg, Pattie, Mike, and Audra Lancaster
Dana Logan
John and Pat Malin
John McClendon
Robert Mercer
Mid-American Machine & Equipment, Inc., Leroy, KS
Alvin and Leigh Moore, and Opal Ross
Moore Ingram Johnson & Steele, LLP, Marietta, GA
National Association Supply Co-Op, Inc., New Philadelphia, OH
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Jeffrey Neu
Jerry Oswell's Sunday School Class
Patrick Popicg
Ralph and Marla Ramsey
Rhonda Reed and Garrett Tipton, Scott and Chandra Rickey, and Michelle Finch and Terry Walker
John and Kristen Scoggin
Ross and Ruth Sedler
Brian Shine
Brian and Lisa Shipp
Bill Snider
Brad and Ginny Snider
Betty, Mike, and Logan Squyres
Staiman Recycling Corp., Williamsport, PA
Flight Safety Wichita East, Wichita, KS
Jahni Tapley
Daryl and Shelly Thomason
John and Heather Travis
Tri-State Iron & Metal Company, Texarkana, AR
Wylie and Louise Turley
Setco Australia, New South Wales
Robert Walker
Wayne and Sue Warren
William A. Harrison, Inc., Little Rock, AR
Bruce and Gwen Willingham and the staff of McCurtain Daily Gazette
WRN, Inc., Stillwater, OK
William Lee Holder, Jr.
John Beckman '92 and Deniece Scott Beckman '76
Carol Blankinship
Donnie and Karla Harkreader
Melinda Holder
Roberta Holder
Mira Ann Ingram Leister '63 and Marvin C. Leister, Jr.
Ruth Skelton
B. Reid Holiman '51
Bill Holder '52 and Jane Wilson Holder '55
Flora Eustice Horne '54
Kathryn King Bost '43
Abe Eustice
Bill Holder '52 and Jane Wilson Holder '55
Flois Eustice Page '54
Sue Patterson Pine '57 and Bob Pine
Irma Guzman Horne '57
Roy Horne '57
Barbara J. Jetton
W. C. Jetton
Mary Ragon Johnson '37
George Callahan
Dawn J. M. Dvoracek and Frank Schull
Pat Farmer
Paula Glasgow
Bill Holder '52 and Jane Wilson Holder '55
Pamela Shrigley Jones '71
Mira Ann Ingram Leister '63 and Marvin C. Leister, Jr.
Sue Patterson Pine '57 and Bob Pine
William Shrigley, Jr. '69 and Mary Jo Shrigley
Jonathan and Donna Manley Wolfe
Dickie Jones '72
Pamela Shrigley Jones '71
Faye Williams Raible '72 and Gary Raible
William Shrigley, Jr. '69 and Mary Jo Shrigley
Frank Wilson Jones
Paula Glasgow
T.J. Jones '08 and Margaret Jones
Pamela Shrigley Jones '71
W. Ernest King, Jr. '41 and Maribeth King
Alice King Kutz and Kurt Kutz
Tammy Labude '91
Susan Edens '92
Shelli Stewart Lamberson
John Frost '89 and Julia Frost
Debbie Stallings Mooney '82 and Charles Mooney
Waymon Lewellen '58
Lonnie Qualls '55 and Levada Mathis Qualls '55
Marian Ward Lewis '74
Stan Brown
Bill and Kody Eakin
Steve and Dorinda Edmisten
Paula Glasgow
Ann Patterson '75 and Max Snowden
Lonnie Qualls '55 and Levada Mathis Qualls '55
Gene and Lynda Stephenson
Charles Lorfing '76
William Shrigley, Jr. '69 and Mary Jo Shrigley
Dallas Maples '59
Jo Ann Dunn Choate '57 and Thomas Choate
Charles Martin, Jr. '57
Jetta Martin
Mackie McElree
Charlene McMillan Watson '44
Helen Marie Smith Moncrief '35
Linda Moncrief
Lucile Lucas Murphy '33
Mitsuko Ichinose '68
Tommy E. Owens '70
Glenda Dennis Owens '71 and Steve Owens
Robert Page '52
Flois Eustice Page '54
Donald Pannell '68
Len Bradley
Donnie and Karla Harkreader
Carl David Parker '60
Mary Alice Parker Dobesh '56
Carl F. Parker
Mary Alice Parker Dobesh '56
Edward Myron Parker
Tommy and Judy Parker
Helen Williamson Parker '30
Mary Alice Parker Dobesh '56
J. T. Patterson '38 and Lucile Sanders Patterson
Beth Patterson DuVall '65
Ann Patterson '75 and Max Snowden
Debra Ann Perry
Ron and Karenree Jones
Franklin Pickle '55
Bill Holder '52 and Jane Wilson Holder '55
Lonnie Dean Pitts '68
Paula Glasgow
William Shrigley, Jr. '69 and Mary Jo Shrigley
Michael A. Rail '80
Sue Rail Wilkerson '82 and Danny Wilkerson
Myron Ricketts
Stan Brown
James Ring
Sheila Doss '80
John Rotenberry '62
Jo Ann Dunn Choate '57 and Thomas Choate
William Simco
Roger and Hassel Hunt Rowland
Elizabeth Rowland Anderson '72 and King Anderson
William Shipman '50
Beth Shipman
Bill Simco '60
William Simco
Curtis Lee Spence
Lance Spence '91 and Virginia Spence
Luann Spence
Robert Dennis Spurlock '65
Carl Miller '64 and Madge Miller
Nancy Tamuty '59
Jo Ann Dunn Choate '57 and Thomas Choate
Jake Tull '10
Marvin and Leila Bower
David and Selena Overholt
Steve Quattlebaum
Mary Ellen Richards
Betsy Tull Landers
Marjean Van Eman
E. K. Van Eman
Jerry Wagoner '58
Connie and Michael Booty
Pat Walker
Richard and Holly Dunsworth
Steve and Dorinda Edmisten
Larry and Cindy Isch
Dennis and Marie Wheeler
Angela Wheeler Spencer '98 and Shawn Spencer
Don Gene White
Linda Kauffeld White '67
Tom Wilson '42
Pat Voeller Laster '64
Ed Dell Wortz
Steve and Dorinda Edmisten
Bill Holder '52 and Jane Wilson Holder '55
Larry and Cindy Isch

May 16, 2016 through Dec. 30, 2016

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Bob and Kristi Albrecht
Barbara Angell
Berte "Mali" Dahl '80
Cathy Angell
Berte "Mali" Dahl '80
Mark Anis '00
Mohammed and Elizabeth Anis
Matthew Arant '12
Samuel and Teresa Arant
Reid Birch
Becky Neighbors
Judith Boreham
Ann Filyaw
Mary Boyer
Dawn J. M. Dvoracek and Frank Schull
Catherine Rogers Bumpers '47
Dawn J. M. Dvoracek and Frank Schull
James Duff '63 and Sue Kauffeld Duff '63
Linda Kauffeld White '67
Richard Dunsworth
Thomas and Nancy Smith
Dawn J.M. Dvoracek
Holiday Island Presbyterian Church
William Eddington '55 and Charlotte Eddington '56
Bill Alexander '55 and Linda Alexander
Travis Feezell
Jeremy and Whitleigh Wilhelmi
First Presbyterian Church of Clarksville, AR
Dawn J. M. Dvoracek and Frank Schull
Betty Curtis Hardin '58
John and Chris May
Brett Hays '06
Harold and Pam Hays
Jane Wilson Holder '55
Bettye LaBorn
Mary Ragon Johnson '37
Dawn J. M. Dvoracek and Frank Schull
Cindy Angell Keeling
Berte "Mali" Dahl '80
Caroline Keller '18
Durwood and Janie Keller
Sylvia Kauffeld Kinnear '66
Linda Kauffeld White '67
Holly Mitchell
Robert K. Bennett
Rick and Sherée Niece
Sean Riordan '06
Jeffrey Scaccia and Amy Scaccia '09
Gene and Lynda Stephenson
Rick Otto
Cara Rowbotham Flinn '85
Gilbert Parks
James Spragins, Jr. '76 and Theresa Domerese Spragins '78
Darious Parrish '17
Theodore and Lynne Rosiere
Jack Thomas Patterson '65
Beth Patterson DuVall '65
William Ragon '53
Dawn J. M. Dvoracek and Frank Schull
David Rawhouser '69
Emily McGee
Wanda Kauffeld Shively '54
Linda Kauffeld White '67
Ryan Skelly '07 and Callie Williams Skelly '07
James and Virginia Skelly
Angela Wheeler Spencer '98
Darrel Wheeler, Jr. '75 and Sharon Goza Wheeler
Eleanor Thomas
Dawn J. M. Dvoracek and Frank Schull
Bruce Williams '43 and Tracy Williams
Dawn J. M. Dvoracek and Frank Schull
Darrell Williams '76
Connie and Michael Booty
Frances Wilson
Dawn J. M. Dvoracek and Frank Schull

A FINAL WORD FROM THE ALUMNI DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

As University of the Ozarks alumni and friends, you are the foundation of this great institution. We appreciate your service and commitment to the University and greatly value your input about how we can make your experience even better. We are constantly seeking ways to improve the University's connection with our alumni and friends, and that includes this publication, the TODAY alumni magazine. In the fall, the Alumni Office sent out a survey to our alumni asking their opinions and soliciting feedback about the publication and ways we can improve it. More than 100 alumni responded to the survey. Here are some of the results:

- Sixty-six percent said they "always" read the TODAY magazine, while 29 percent said "sometimes."
- Fifty-three percent said they preferred the print edition, 15 percent said they preferred the online version and 32 percent said they liked both.
- Eighty-three percent said they would like to see more alumni features, 59 percent said they would like to see more articles on history/tradition and 42 percent said they would like to see more features on faculty and staff.
- Ninety-one percent said the TODAY magazine strengthened their connection to the University.
- Seventy-four percent said they would like to see a monthly digital newsletter from the University in addition to the TODAY magazine.

In addition to the survey, we've established an editorial advisory board, which is made up alumni, faculty, staff and current students, to help us select the content and imagery that best serves our constituents. Based on the results of the survey and direction from the advisory board, you will notice some changes in the TODAY magazine, beginning with this edition. You will find more alumni features as well as an enhanced online presence. Additional changes based on that feedback are in the works, including an alumni and friends newsletter that will launch later this spring. If you weren't able to take part in the survey, we would still love to hear you opinions about the magazine—what you like about it as well as ways we can improve it.

Providing feedback on the TODAY magazine is just one way that you can stay connected and engaged with Ozarks. You can offer to serve on alumni boards and committees, attend on-campus events, help schedule alumni events in your area, submit nominations for alumni or sports hall of fame awards, volunteer to assist the Admission Office with recruiting in your area, or participate in Homecoming. The Alumni Office is also planning to host several dinners in cities throughout the region over the next several months, so we hope you will find one near you and join us.

As you've read in this edition of TODAY, there are a lot of wonderful and exciting initiatives going on at this University and I urge you to consider ways that you can continue to be a part of this success story. We invite you to stay connected and informed through our social media channels as well as through our website (ozarks.edu). If you have questions or would like to provide feedback about how we might serve you better, please contact me at bwood@ozarks.edu or 479-979-1234.

Sincerely,

Brett

EMPOWER an EAGLE

SUPPORT THE ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND (ASF)

Your gift to the Annual Scholarship Fund (ASF) supports students like Meghan, a senior Spanish major from Little Rock, Arkansas. A resident assistant and president of the Campus Activities Board, Meghan has been named to the academic Dean's List in six of her seven semesters at Ozarks. During the summer of 2016, she spent eight weeks in a Spanish immersion program in Costa Rica, her first trip outside the United States. She enjoyed the experience so much that she plans to spend the next two years teaching English in Central and South America before continuing her education in graduate school. Your support of the Annual Scholarship Fund helps EMPOWER STUDENTS like Meghan at University of the Ozarks. For more information, please call or e-mail the Office of Advancement.

kharkreader@ozarks.edu
479.979.1230

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415 NORTH COLLEGE AVE ◆ CLARKSVILLE, AR 72830

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If you'd like to help plan a reunion, please contact the Office of Alumni Relations at **479.979.1234**